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THE MONEY ISSUE



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A food-biz pitch competition

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Michelle Jones, Logan Park
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FEEDback
READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

TAKE BACK JUNIOR'S

I agree with Blumshuf Palmer Kagan [Taste Test: Janaro's Rastano, March 16]. Janaro's has lost its way, and I hope it finds the way back to its original quality heritage and NY-style American Italian food. Prior to opening, they made statues not saying that it was going to be high-quality handmade food. But from their words to the table — it just doesn't happen. Maybe too many muscle versus bones not to them!

Lee Silver
Free Staff Office

LAST SUPPER AT RUSTICO'S

I have to agree wholeheartedly with Cathy DeCenzo (FoodDish's "Junior's Rustic 40 No" March 25). Took the family, we waited forever for the kitchen to do simple dishes that came out 40 minutes later wrong, and very, very small portions for the price. It was loud. It was cold. And it was the last time. But I love Junior's in Cohasset.

Sean Moran
mailto:sean@seanmoran.com

的效用函数

In "Sacred Cows," [April] author Kathryn Flagg puts too much emphasis on compliance with the scripted agricultural practices, which she notes have been in effect for 30 years and are empirically ineffective. This is just the distraction Secretary of Agriculture Clardy Ross wants. Flagg

TIM NEWYDAM

[illegible]

RESEARCH DESIGN

[illegible]

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CLASSIFIED

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- people around's
- take

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MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS WEEK

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SUNDAY 12 IN THE RIGHT KEY

Đokica Ramić (pictured) is a legend in the piano world. A prodigy of her young period, Arthur Schnitzler and prodigious performer debuted at Carnegie Hall at age 17 in 1907. Decades later, Ramić has more than 4,500 concerts under her belt. The international star heads to Middlebury College with a program of works by Haydn, Beethoven and Chopin.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

SUNDAY 12 Here Kitty, Kitty

Movie lovers unite. Four-legged stars hit the big screen in the **Planet Cat Film Festival**, ranging in length from a few seconds to two minutes. Catfry clips explore felines in hilarious and heartwarming situations. Proceeds from this charitable collection benefit the Humane Society of Chittenden County.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

③ WEDNESDAY 15 Light and Dark

Rather than open a history book to explore the past, **Mina Malinovic** carries us digital forward and backward in the short film *This World Must Stay*. The Los Angeles-based multimedia artist drew from a family-based archive when creating awe-inspiring visuals that incorporate her ancestors.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

④ THURSDAY 9 Abridged Version

There are stories, and then there are the great old plots of **Pecha Kucha Night**. Chances are you've watched slide shows featuring 30 images with only 10 seconds to describe each frame. Participants deliver first-grade narratives that pack a punch. The result is a presentation experience unlike any other.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

⑤ THURSDAY 9 Diminutive Domicile

While big isn't always better when it comes to building a house, smaller isn't always easier. Just ask **Ellen Winkler**, who speaks from experience in the **Tiny House Workshop**. Acknowledging the 14-month-long construction project, the volunteer behind the guidebook *Tiny House: Seasons* offers insights into this growing DIY movement.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

⑥ FRIDAY 10 Americana the Beautiful

Alecia drum beats out of a repurposed vintage suitcase in *This Incredible Movement Comes to Me*, in the **Forums of Southern Americana**. The award-winning Dixie group brings an innovative approach to music making in historic venues. Pick up the *Dixie* booklets in advance or expect the unexpected when the vocalist takes the stage.

SEE PROFILE ON PAGE 14

⑦ ONGOING Art of Accumulation

Most art collections don't require name donations in lieu of stars to house their acquisitions. But **Burns** is asking Mark Kinkadee owner of more than 18,000 contemporary art pieces, also need that much storage. Forty-five percent of his collection finds temporary home at the **Art of Accumulation** gallery in the exhibit *"The Museum: Where the Art Stays"*.

SEE REVENUE PROFILE 16



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AWOL Pols

When the Vermont House
voted overwhelmingly last
Friday for a resolution
opposing Indiana's controversial
stem cell research freedom law, just one legislator
for ignored the word "may."

In a written statement he provided
reporters, Rep. **BRADLEY VAN DYKE**
(D-Ferrisburgh) explained that he was
not involved in passing judgment on
the actions of other states, "unless they
directly affect the substantive well-being
of the state of Vermont and its residents."
Most of Van Dyke's colleagues felt
otherwise.

One hundred and nineteen legislators
voted in favor of the resolution, which
denounces a law critics have said permits
discrimination against gays. The resolution
also calls on states to enact non-discrimination
status protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual
and transgender citizens, and it asks
members of all three branches of Vermont's
government to refrain from traveling to
states that offer for unequal treatment.

While those who voted last Friday
morning widely supported the measure, an
unusual number of lawmakers were absent
for the roll call. A disproportionate number
of those hailed from the GOV which holds
just 53 of the House's 150 seats.

Among the AWOL were 17 Republicans,
10 Democrats and two independents.

Amidst some who were observing
Good Friday or Passover, such as Rep. **JOHN
STANLEY** (R-Montpelier), who said the deadline
to stay home "out of respect for the holy day."
Her husband is in the pinner at the
Albany Methodist Church.

How would Stanley have voted if she
didn't go to Montpelier?

"I honestly can't tell you," she said. "I
probably would have gone in to peer pressure
and voted yes, but my concern was
resolving the resolution to 50 other states."

Other lawmakers were spotted around
the Statehouse Friday but were mysteriously
absent for the vote.

Rep. **DALE CAMPBELL** (R-Fair Haven) was
one of them. He said he was tied up at
the clerk's office, filing his expenses for the
week so that he could be reimbursed. He
said he's "not sure" how he would have
voted.

Rep. **ANNE MARSHALL** (R-Dorset) was
not seen, she opposed the resolution on
principle and openly admitted that she
skipped the vote on purpose.

"I went to the ladies' room and then I
went to my committee room and listened,"
she said.

Why not just vote no?

"I believe that anybody who has their
rights, absolutely," Marshall attempted to

explain. "I believe that if they are gay or
transgender or any other problem — what-
ever else they have or believe in — that's
their belief, and we shouldn't treat them
less than in our state."

Van, say other "problem?"
"I don't see that as a problem," she said,
quickly correcting herself. "That state can
wrong. I know as soon as I said it, a case
set wrong."

Rep. **JOHN CANN** (R-Rutland), who was
also spotted in the building, was less forth-
coming. Asked over the phone Monday
why he didn't vote, he said, "I just decided
not to."

Why?
"I just said I just decided not to," he
clarified. "I had my own reasons."

What were those reasons?
"You've asked that question three times
already," he said.

I DON'T LIKE SOCIALIST DEMOCRATS AND THE PROGRESSIVES SHOVING THAT CRAP DOWN MY THROAT.

REP. TOM TRENAMINI

"Anybody hasn't concerned the question
three times already," Seven Days noted.

"I think we've done with this conversa-
tion," Days said, hanging up the phone.

Rep. **TOM TRENAMINI** (R-Rutland), drove all the way up from Rutland to the
Statehouse Friday morning. But after filing
his expenses, he said, he left town before
the vote.

"I won't try to avoid anything," he said.
"I won't be lying well."

Trenamini knows exactly how he would
have voted had he stuck around.

"I would have voted against the resolu-
tion because, you know, No. 1. I don't like
socialist Democrats and the Progressives
shoving that crap down my throat," he
said. "I mean, if a person runs a business,
he has the right to deny service to anyone
— because it's his or her business. And you
can't put that on me."

He still he OK to deny service to any
citizen he wants?

"No, that wouldn't be OK," Trenamini
said.

Why not?

"Equal rights, I guess," he said.
"Everybody should be treated fairly. But if
someone owns a company, he should have
a right to deal with certain organizations
or whatever?"

But it's OK to deny service to gays?

"No, I'm not saying that. It's not
said. "I'm saying to individuals like the
right to, you know, that, I mean, this law is in 20
states in the United States now. I believe
it was started by — I think even Clinton
signed on to it back in the '90s. But I, you
know, I just, you know, I just feel that if you
own your own business, there might be
someone you don't want to deal with."

Such as someone who is gay?
"Those are your words. These are your
words, my friend. These aren't my words,"
he said. "It's a justice of the peace. I marry
gays, lesbians, homosexuals, hetero-
sexuals. All you have to do is call the town
clerk's office and you'll see I've married
people who are straight, homosexual, gay,
lesbian, whatever."

Ah, got it

The Sorrell Standard

Last fall month, Attorney General **DAVE
SORRELL** launched a campaign finance
crusade against former lieutenant
gubernatorial candidate **JOHN CORBIN**. The
AG involving \$120,000 in fees and consultation
from the publicly financed Prog for allegedly
coordinating with the Vermont Democratic
Party over an email worth \$200.
As we noted in last week's Fair Days,
Sorrell hasn't subjected himself to the same
scrutiny he has Corbin.

Two years ago, the AG blew off requests
from a top Republican to investigate alleged
coordination between Sorrell and a super
PAC that bled him out of a close race. And
he is scheduled to Seven Days. Sorrell took
\$180,000 from a Texas law firm as its repre-
sentatives directed a meeting — and later
banned the firm to sue on behalf of the state.

Sorrell has also failed to comply with a
public basic element of campaign finance
law: Several times a year, candidates must
publicly disclose such campaign expenses
they make "directly by amount, date, to
whom paid, for what purpose," according to
state law.

A review of Sorrell's recent filings shows
that he has routinely ignored the rules.
Within three years of the past four years,
Sorrell's campaign has scrubbed him for
hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of
dollars' worth of expenses paid out of his
own pocket. In such instances, the campaign
provided only a vague explanation of what
Sorrell bought with a year, candidates must
and never once did in disclosure, who he paid.

During his 2012 and 2014 reelection
campaigns, Sorrell reimbursed himself a
total of \$18,542 without much explanation.

According to elections director **WILL
JENNINGS**, who works for Secretary of State **ANDREW
CONDOE**, "All campaign expenses are meant to
be made directly from the campaign account."

and reported individually on the reporting firms." Each violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000, Sorrell says.

Why is it important to report expenditures?

"I think the entire idea of campaign-finance disclosure law is to have an idea from who and what sources people are raising their money and an idea of what they're spending that money," Sorrell says.

The letter is impossible to derive from the AG's filings.

In February 2013, for instance, Sorrell's campaign cut him a check for \$2,269, identifying the purpose of the payment as "reimbursement for expenses." In November 2013, the campaign paid him \$4,270 for "campaign expenses" according to a filing. In July 2012, it identified a \$340 payment simply as "Tray."

Oh, what tray?

Sorrell declined a request this week for more information about the campaign expenditures in question. In an e-mailed response, he said, "I have met my disclosure obligations."

But when *Seven Days* asked him about the practice at the end of an unrelated interview in March 2015, Sorrell was more forthcoming. He said many of the reimbursements relate to trips to Democratic Governors Association conferences. Though DGA's pays for his airfare and lodging, he said, his campaign picks up the tab for "baggage-check fees, food that's not officially provided, cell phone expenses." He continued, "And if I have a meeting with somebody every lunch, in-state, to talk about being of assistance to my campaign or something like that, I just keep those receipts and then once every six months, or whatever, compile them and get reimbursed."

Asked at the time why he didn't provide a line-item accounting, so the law calls for, Sorrell assigned responsibility to his campaign staff, saying, "I did it to my treasurer."

That's an interesting argument, given that in an April 2013 interview he listed in a campaign-finance case against former lieutenant governor **WHADE PHELPS**, Sorrell himself called it "absurd" to say a candidate can't be responsible for the actions of his staff.

"The plain language and structure of the statutes make clear that it is the candidate who bears responsibility for compliance with campaign-finance laws," he wrote.

Even after *Seven Days* asked about the practice last March, Sorrell continued to provide vague explanations for his expenditures, such as the \$24,554 reimbursement he identified last November as paying for "food, lodging, cell phones."

Sorrell is not the only candidate to flout Vermont's expenditures-reporting requirements. But a review of other recent filings found that no statewide candidate has done so as frequently or consistently as Sorrell.

Sorrell, whose office has no endorsement powers, says he had not noticed the

pattern. If he had, he says, he would have contacted Sorrell to provide more guidance on the law.

"We just don't have the staff time to be combing through them or something like that might have jumped out at me," he says.

With a laugh, he added, "And it's up to the attorney general to determine whether it's a violation or not."

Media Notes

Former *Shovel Reporter* publisher **MARIA ANTONIACI** returned to the Vermont media world this week with a new job as editor and co-publisher of the *Essex Reporter* and *Colchester Sun*.

Antoniaci left the *Shovel Reporter* and its sister paper, the *Wardsboro Record*, in October 2012 to launch a short-lived community magazine chain for *Tibbels*, the company formerly known as *TibbelsWeek*. After another stint in communications and marketing in Philadelphia, Antoniaci says she realized she "desperately missed community journalism and my home and family in Vermont."

The *Essex* and *Colchester* weeklies are co-owned by Addison County publisher **ANGIE LYNN** and her brother, *St. Albans Messenger* publisher **AMBER LYNN**.

Antoniaci replaces **Angela's** daughter, **SARA LYNN PERLIN**, who spent five years at the *Chittenden County papers* — the last three as editor. Perlin will become business manager and assistant publisher at Addison Press, the Lynn entry that owns the *Independent*, the *Brandon Reporter* and several other Vermont publishing properties.

In addition to her father, Perlin will be working alongside sister **CHERYL LYNN** and **PATRIC LYNN** — and with assistant **MARIA ANTONIACI**, who is joining the company after nearly two years at the state economic development commissioner.

"We're creating a more relaxed and youthful team that has the vision and energy to just focus on other aspects of the business while still making the print products stronger than ever," says Angela Lynn, adding that her "thrilled" to have her wife and daughter joining her in Middlebury.

Lastly, Vermont lost a legendary journalist last week with the death of **ROBERT WILK**. The longtime managing editor of the *Randolph Herald* died Thursday at the age of 87.

The Herald heaved its former chief with a package of stories and columns besides Sunday readings his 40 years at the paper. Wilk got his start on the city desk in the early 1960s and retired in 1992 as national page editor. In the years between, colleagues recalled, he transformed the paper into the leading news source in Vermont and distinguished himself as scrappy in the political class.

How did he do you, Mr. Wilk? ☺



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Fair Share? Officials Struggle to Regulate Vermont's 'Sharing Economy'

BY ALICIA FRESE

In a early March, Vermont's Department of Financial Regulation issued a consumer alert cautioning people that a "revolution" was brewing in the Green Mountain State. It was referring to the "sharing economy" in which people use online platforms to rent their houses, cars — even their pets — to strangers.

Titled "Be aware before you share," the alert warned potential lenders that they could face major liability if they lack proper insurance. Is it a sign that state officials are starting to clamp down on off-the-books commerce?

In recent years, the sharing economy — variously dubbed "collaborative consumption," the "peer economy" and the "access lifestyle" — has taken root into a multi-billion-dollar sector. Supporters say it promotes an "asset-light" lifestyle that's efficient and environmentally friendly. Critics argue that unregulated transactions allow people to evade fees, taxes and safety regulations.

Both sides agree on one thing: Current laws are ill-suited to address the situation.

Two of the biggest names in the business — Airbnb, a company that facilitates renting out spare rooms, and Uber, which lets people use their personal cars as cabs — have garnered some high-profile battles. Spain, Germany, Belgium, India, Thailand and other countries have banned Uber services. New York's attorney general subpoenaed Airbnb and started shutting down accommodations that ran afoul of the state's rental laws. San Francisco and Portland, Ore., now require Airbnb hosts to register and prove that they live at the residence they're renting.

Both companies are doing business in Vermont, where bartending has long been a way of life. At first state officials grumbled them with ambivalence. Now some of them are cracking down.

Labor Commissioner Anne Noonan said her department is investigating Uber in Vermont to determine whether its drivers are employees or independent contractors. Uber argues the latter, but if the labor department disagrees, the company would be obligated to pay minimum wage, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance. The California courts are overruling the strict question in two pending cases also involving Uber; the other, its competitive, Lyft.

Last year, the state tax department



started enforcing the 9 percent rooms and meals tax on Airbnb hosts who rent rooms to guests for at least 15 days during the year. To date, the department has brought in \$398,000. The state health department, which licenses lodging establishments, has also begun inspecting some of the places advertised on Airbnb.

Despite these measures, enforcement is erratic. Neither the tax nor health departments could say how many rentals are on the right side of the law. And plenty of gray area remains.

Under the health department's current regulations, drafted in 1975, any place that advertises and provides lodging to the public for more than one day a month needs a license from the department. They're also subject to rules, such as "Individual cots of camp... shall be discarded after being used in a guest room." The department plans to revisit these regulations with Airbnb in mind.

A white paper prepared by the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles

concluded that Uber drivers should be considered cabbies under state law. It also pointed out that no enforcement system currently exists to ensure that drivers register and get proper insurance.

Officials emphasize that they don't want to be draconian. "You don't want to strafe insurance," noted DFR commissioner Steve Denegay, who said the consumer alert was simply meant to encourage people to "be smart about it."

Education is the priority agreed last commissioner Mary Peterson, whose department published a primer on the rooms-and-meals tax and when it applies.

Awareness campaigns like those do little to assuage business owners such as Doug Sawyer, who runs the Lake Inn in Brandon. "The state needs to be more aggressive in trying to level the playing field," said Sawyer. He received a flurry of expenses — for taxes, kitchen inspections, fire alarms and sprinklers, to name a few — that Airbnb hosts don't pay.

State tourism commissioners and

former insider Megan Smith shares Sawyer's concerns. But to regulate Airbnb, departments need more inspectors and more resources, Smith said. Given the gaping budget gap this year, "It wasn't a time to start that conversation" in the legislature, but Smith plans to address it next year.

Not surprisingly, Burlington has made the most progress in navigating the sharing economy. It hosts nearly half of the more than 1,000 Vermont rooms currently available on Airbnb; it's the only city in Vermont where Uber has officially launched, and it does have an ordinance that aims to regulate local delivery services.

Mayor Miro Weinberger said he thinks these companies "offer the promise of real value to Burlingtonians," but also "create real issues." The city shut down its Airbnb operation for the first time last summer. A Wisconsin couple had bought a second home in the South End and started renting it out. After



Anita Perry is a manager at Newport Natural Market and Cafe.

As Canadian Dollar Sinks, Border Communities Tread Water

BY MOLLY WALSH

For more than a decade, Canadian customers at the Newport Natural Market and Cafe could buy their hepatitis and organic milk with their own cash, as if they were paying with American greenbacks.

Not anymore. A bright yellow sign went up at the cash register two weeks ago announcing that the store in this border community would no longer accept the loonie, whose value—roughly equal to the U.S. dollar just a couple of years ago—has dropped to about 80 American cents.

The downtown store can't afford the perk for Canadian customers that essentially amounts to a 20 percent discount, said manager Anita Perry. "We were losing money at it."

The Canadian dollar hit a six-year low in March. That's a worrisome development for merchants, hoteliers and other tourist-dependent businesses across Vermont. Concern is greatest in the state's northern corridor, which has traditionally had higher unemployment and long relied on Quebec residents who not only vacation in the area but also pay down for lunch and weekly grocery shopping.

Newport, a quiet city of 5,000 on Lake Memphremagog, has struggled to grow



jobs in a region where frost heaves seem to outnumber people. As remote as the city feels, it's just a few miles south of the Canadian province of Quebec, which boasts 8.1 million residents, including 4.2 million in the Montreal area and more than 200,000 in Sherbrooke.

"We're not seeing as many tourists from Canada," said Lynne Bertrand, executive director of Vermont's North Country Chamber of Commerce. Traffic at the Newport welcome center is down, and a number of local businesses are reporting slower sales, she said.

Summer is the busiest time of year for tourism in Newport, bringing bridal parties, boaters, fishermen and near 100,000 Vermont business owners are brainstorming new ways to appeal to Quebec

visitors this summer should the Canadian dollar remain weak, Bertrand said.

Possibilities include new approaches to advertising or special Canadian-friendly promotions. A group of businesses may team up and agree to take the Canadian dollar at par for a day, weekend or longer.

"The strategy looks on business volume making up for lower profits from accepting the Canadian dollar. It's also a matter of convenience, even during times when the loonie is stronger than the U.S. dollar, some customers will want to pay with Canadian because it spares them the hassle and fuss of exchanging money."

Some businesses in Newport might not ever change their monetary pelican. Rust Side Restaurant, for one. Sid Davis of Aye's C&B, Canada, was there for lunch last week. He knew the fact that his Canadian dollars are treated like American ones.

"But I don't know how they can afford it," the retired schoolteacher added as he headed inside the restaurant on the shores of still-droven Memphremagog.

Davis and his wife regularly drive south to buy groceries and gas and to have lunch. The trip takes about 40 minutes, including what is usually a quick

stop at the border. "The costs on gas all know us," Davis said.

Even with the scenic exchange rate, certain purchases are still a better deal in the U.S., according to Davis. "We always buy our milk and cheese down here because Canada has a little more socialism, that's the joke. Gas also tends to be cheaper. It's bags," Davis said of the savings.

Other Canadians are starting to change their purchasing pattern. "A lot of the groceries I would normally buy, I don't," said Barbara Fleish, a retiree from Stouffville, Quebec, after shopping at a Shaw's grocery store and an adjacent Dollar Store in Dorset just outside Newport.

The drive from Stouffville takes about 25 minutes, and Fleish makes regular grocery runs to Vermont. Lately, Fleish said, many of her neighbors are spending "quite a bit less" in Vermont. Conversely, she's noticed more cars with Vermont license plates parked outside stores in Stouffville.

The prospect of Vermontians spending more in Canada and Canadians pulling back on Vermont trips makes tourism and economic development officials nervous well beyond Newport. Canadian business is a "highly important" to Vermont, said state Treasurer Commissioner Megan Smith. Vermont caters to Quebecers with a French language option on the state tourism website. Some communities, including Newport, fly the Canadian flag along with the Vermont and U.S. flags, and post signs extending welcome—*bienvenue*.

Because tax figures run several months behind, there is no hard data yet to show how the weakening Canadian dollar is affecting revenues, Smith said. But she's worried the situation is carefully and is considering a shift in advertising strategy for the summer in some sectors. Vermont targets three large cities—New York, Boston and Montreal—with its marketing message. "If the exchange rate weakens too, it might give the dataset one a rest. That's a conversation we're starting to have right now," Smith said.

Barclings International Airport officials are also keeping a watchful eye on the exchange rate. Boardings there are up 2 percent over last year, but the number of cars with Canadian plates in import parking areas is down 3.4 percent, and Guss Richards, director of aviation.

The parking lot survey is strenuous but could be a sign that the exchange rate is squeezing Canadian travel at a time when the Burlington airport authority wants to increase it. The report has many Canada-friendly amenities. Daily bus service to Quebec, signs in French, a French language option on its website



Bob Stenger, CEO of Jay Peak Resort

and, during the season, a direct flight to Toronto. Richards recently visited Sherbrooke to drive up business.

Back in Newport, the business is out, too, and city leaders want more Canadian tourists to know The old railroad city is trying to pull off a renaissance. An entire block of Main Street has been excavated — the future home of a new five-story hotel, office, retail and hotel building.

Bob Stenger, the CEO of Jay Peak Resort, is leading the hotel project and hopes to start construction by summer 2016. He's also planning to build a research park for a South Korean biotechnology company in

Newport. Both projects would be funded through the federal EB-5 program, which offers permanent residency to foreign investors who commit at least \$500,000 to qualifying projects in economically depressed areas. Jay Peak's expansion was funded that way. Airport and waterfront improvements are also part of Newport's EB-5-funded makeover dreams.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing. Stenger and his partners have not filed for EB-5 status on the Main Street project, and the review could take at least six months. The research park ran into trouble when state officials asked for more scrutiny over the biotech company's financials. It's now cleared most hurdles, and groundbreaking is set for May.

Bartland, the chamber of commerce director, said Newport business owners are eager to attract some of the visitors now streaming toward Jay's ski slopes, hotels, condos and burgeoning indoor waterfront.

Stenger recalled a recent meeting with Newport business leaders during which he said he should be shown their goal.

"We want our guests to explore

down there and obviously spend money down there," Stenger said. Jay Peak is about a 35-minute drive from Newport.

About half of the visitors at Jay Peak are Canadian. The resort has long accepted Canadian dollars at par for lift tickets and takes Canadian currency for rooms as well. The deal does not extend to the resort's restaurants and stores.

The resort advertises heavily to both the English-speaking and French-speaking populations in Canada and sees upsides during popular Canadian holidays. Over the Easter weekend, 64 percent of guests were Canadian.

Stenger said many of Jay Peak's visitors are careful shoppers and if the resort did not offer lift tickets at par, a big chunk of the Canadians would still at home. Then for the resort has not seen any real drop-off due to the exchange rate, according to JJ Toland, director of communications and partnerships. The resort expects to finish third of last year's skier visits with a total of approximately 380,000. Room occupancy is projected to finish up 5 percent.

Jay Peak's expansion in the years from 2006 to 2012 generated 1,000 jobs, 390 million in income and \$6.4 million in new annual tax revenues, according to a 2014 study for the Vermont Commerce and Community Development Agency. It also made it an all season resort that embraces snow attractions. Stenger's message: "See the lake, take a boat ride, do something to have."

As for the future, Stenger doesn't seem too concerned. He watches the exchange rate carefully and has years of experience of conducting business through ups and downs. ☐

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Transit Groups Unveil Secure Bike Lockers in Winooski, Burlington



Local groups have unveiled two bike lockers in downtown Burlington and Winooski in hopes of encouraging alternative transportation. The Burlington County, a partnership of government and nonprofit groups, has installed bikeLink lockers, out at Champlain Mall in Winooski and at the Burlington Transit Center. Each locker accessed by a keypad for registered users has space for four bicycles. They cost the user per hour to use.

The lockers are near Chittenden County Transportation Authority bus stops and at main town locations where Chittenden Vermont offers free bicycles available for use. Building roads that give better an option for sustainable and healthy communities. Winooski city manager Katherine Desrosiers said, "Inexpensive alternative transportation will no longer have to be a member alternative."

The lockers are designed for workers who start their bikes for the day and also for visitors making

a quick drop downtown. BikeLink users obtain an account, linked by their email and a member-owned plastic card that they swipe to access any bikeLink locker. Registered users can sign up at bikelink.org.

BikeLink lockers are widely available in California, but the Vermont lockers are the first in New England. Burlington, Vt., is the only other location on the East Coast with bikeLink lockers. Emily Gendron, executive director of nonprofit, Local Motion, said that it's a demand from strong seasonal users will be included in the area.

Other Chittenden County communities have expressed interest in getting lockers. Gendron said the lockers cost \$20,000 to install and operate for the first year. Funding came from federal grants and the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

"This is an opportunity for us to explore their transportation options," Gendron said.

MARK DAVIS

AG Settles South Burlington Council Campaign Finance Case

Attorney General Bill Sorrell has accepted \$15,000 in fines to settle a campaign finance lawsuit against a former South Burlington City Councilor. Sorrell said the settlement is a compromise to avoid a trial that would have cost the city and the state thousands of dollars.

In the settlement agreement, former South Burlington City Councilor John P. Madolek will pay \$15,000 in fines and the state will pay \$15,000 in fines. The settlement is a compromise to avoid a trial that would have cost the city and the state thousands of dollars.

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John P. Madolek

Madolek and Sorrell because of their cooperation. The settlement is a compromise to avoid a trial that would have cost the city and the state thousands of dollars.

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MARK DAVIS

BTV Gears Up: New Hotel, Housing Demolition Projects Loom

Burlington International Airport has a large slab of land nearby owned and plenty of people types—no commercial development. How the piece might get divided too.

Developer of another BTV project says he has plans to build a hotel on the property on a 10-acre hotel. The building would likely be constructed over the airport's existing parking garage, adding two more stories to the three-story garage.

The project has already attracted the attention of developers, who would build the hotel and then the hotel at the airport. The hotel would be a 10-story hotel. The building would likely be constructed over the airport's existing parking garage, adding two more stories to the three-story garage.

The hotel would be a 10-story hotel. The building would likely be constructed over the airport's existing parking garage, adding two more stories to the three-story garage.



Speaking of airport make the long-planned demolition of 54 empty houses surrounding the airport in South Burlington is set to begin April 10. The report has been saying up the house for years under a voluntary program designed to move neighborhoods off the right path.

Residents who haven't sold have been asked to sell at a loss or to sell at a loss. The program has been saying up the house for years under a voluntary program designed to move neighborhoods off the right path.

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MELLY WALSH

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Vermont's Budget Cuts Meet the Great Pushback

BY TERRI HALLENBECK



Christina Faria, dispatcher at the Middlebury call center

Representative Mike Marcotte and Senate Rep. Steve Stowe have spent years advocating for greater government efficiency. So the two Republicans acknowledge the irony in their fight to save two emergency dispatch centers.

In January, Gov. Peter Shumlin proposed closing Vermont State Police call centers in Derby and Rutland. He said the plan would save \$1.7 million by cutting 14 jobs and shifting officers to the remaining state public safety answering points in Williamstown and Rockingham.

Marcotte and Stowe fought back. Two weeks ago, they won a temporary reprieve in the budget passed by the House. They are unapologetic, arguing that the plan jeopardizes both the economy and public safety.

"I represent my district," said Stowe, a three-term House member from Pittsford and an assistant fire chief.

"This consolidation negatively affects my district."

The 31 full-time and 16 part-time jobs at the Derby call center bring in \$1 million a year in income to the local economy, said Marcotte, a six-term

member from Conchey who serves as schoolboard chair and owns a convenience store there.

Welcome to the budget-cutters' dilemma. For many reductions proposed, legislative leaders say, there's a chorus of voices to save a program—even, at times, from those who fear smaller government.

"That's what we get every time we propose a cut. Some of the people saying, 'No, not this cut' were the same people saying, 'Cut the budget,'" said House Appropriations Committee chair Mitchell Johnson. (D-Grand Isle) "My response to them was, 'Yes, this hurts. This is what smaller government looks

like. This is what you've been asking for."

This year with a \$113 million budget gap prompting many proposed reductions, plans to ax funding for programs such as the Community High School of Vermont, the Vermont Public Broadcasting Service and state employee pay have all met firm resistance.

For starters, when a specific region stands to lose revenue or jobs, legislators from that area naturally jump to attention.

That was the case with the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington. Shumlin had planned to axe state lottery proceeds to help fund the nursing home. But the House refused to agree with that plan. Members were ready to cut VVH's funding by \$1 million.

Rep. Mary Morrissey (Bennington) went to bat for the home, which is in her district—even as she also craved rising taxes.

"It's hard in tough budget years to be looking for funding in your area,"

Morrissey said. Still, she concluded that a home for veterans was a priority over funding for a health insurance exchange that isn't working properly. "We have to prioritize," she said.

The House Appropriations Committee found \$1 million in one-time funds for the home.

Pushback on the proposed call center consolidation has taken a more circuitous route. Opposition was strong enough that Johnson's committee found \$425,000 to keep the two centers operating until September, buying time for officials to figure something out. That could mean either fees or county taxes to support the facilities.

In other words, any savings in the state budget would be transferred to local budgets. "Yes, it's a cost-shift," Johnson said. "But these local communities were coming to us and saying, 'Give us a chance.' Some people from these communities were willing to pay."

The plan Stowe and Marcotte forged directs state public safety officials to



meet with regional groups and figure out by September 15 whether it makes sense for communities to contract with the state for dispatch services. Shure cautions that date might be too soon to find a solution. He hopes the Senate will find more money to buy time.

Macrone said he was conscious of the tight state budget when he came up with this alternative.

Shandis is standing by his consolidation proposal — as is Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn. Vermonters asked the governor to find efficiencies in government, Shandis says, and he did. He vows the state won't jeopardize public safety, as advocates claim, and it will, in fact, save money.

"The only way government can find efficiencies is by doing things with less resources, which often means losing jobs," Shandis said. "There's obviously understandable resistance from the folks who are being affected. However, if we can't do things smarter, more efficiently, for less money, the taxpayers are not going to be happy with us."

Melissa Sharkey, an emergency communications dispatcher in Rutland, certainly isn't happy. She and many coworkers in Derby and Rutland are unlikely to transfer to Williston or Keelingsham because the commute would be too long. Sharkey questions how the state will manage to train so many new call takers at once.

"The things that make a good dispatcher are hard to screen for," she said.

Lt. Jim Cronan, administrator of the Williston state police emergency call center, and one of the first calls he handled as a new dispatcher in 1992 was from a motorist who had found a woman who had been raped, tied up and dumped on the side of the road. No troopers were on duty when the call came in at 3 a.m., but a detective helped him through the ordeal.

"When you get that first call, you go, 'Oh my God, what do I do?'" Cronan said.

Typically, trainees need four to nine months before they can work on their own. Cronan and Dispatchers say that will be a problem if the consolidation plan is approved.

Sen. Kevin Mallis (R-Rutland) and such opponents made it hard to believe that consolidation would really

save \$1.7 million next year. "We can't even see how they're getting to half a million," he said.

Mallis hopes the Senate will find more money to put off the consolidation beyond the September date the House approved. Senate Appropriations Committee chair Jim Ritchel (D-Caledonia), whose district is now served by the Derby call center, said her committee has made no decisions.

Flynn and Shandis stand by the conserving estimate. "I'm positive it will save money," Shandis said. "It will save \$1.7 million every single year for Vermonters, and it won't sacrifice safety either."

Public safety concerns arose last week during a consolidation test. For 24 hours, law-enforcement officials shifted emergency dispatching from Derby to Williston. During a high-speed chase on Interstate 91, Lamoille Police Chief Jack Harris said

couldn't reach dispatchers from the road and gave up trying after 10 minutes, he told the *Caledonian Record* newspaper. Harris did not return calls seeking rescues.

State Police Capt. Donald Patch, who oversees the call centers, said Harris' call went to a secondary radio channel on which the vehicle had been turned down while the dispatcher was tuned into the primary channel. "The same thing could have happened any day of the week," he said.

Officials around Rutland and Derby have criticized the decision to close centers in high-unemployment areas while shifting jobs to Williston and Keelingsham. Flynn said Williston was chosen because it has the best technology. Keelingsham's call center is due to be replaced soon by a state-of-the-art facility in Westmoreland.

"Everything gets out, but not in Chittenden County," said Rep. Bob Helm (R-Fair Haven). "Rutland has no way to absorb this."

Helm, who serves as the appropriations committee, acknowledged that he is fighting the very sort of cuts he's been calling for in state government. This one is worth fighting, he said. "We all heard from firefighters and police and regular people sending us a pretty strong message to save this," he said. ☐

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Beal Hyde

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Beal Bruce Hyde died on March 18, 2023, in Seattle, Texas. He was born in Seattle, Texas, on June 26, 1933, the first of two boys born to Anne Beal Hyde and Mark Foster Hyde. He spent his childhood in Northridge, Hills, Mass. In his young life, he was fortunate to attend two summer camps, one in Vermont, where he learned to swim. Later he spent two summers on the Potomac River. He spent his childhood enjoying the southernmost U.S. influenced by these adventures. Beal became a very active and outdoors-loving man. He inherited family air several decades ago to the Santa Nevada Mountains. He enjoyed doing all sorts of things every day of his life.

during his tenure at the University of Vermont.

At age 18, Beal enrolled at Amherst College, where he studied until the bombing of Pearl Harbor compelled him to enlist in the Army Air Force. He served in Italy and China before his return from the service; he completed his undergraduate degree and received an M.D. in botany from Harvard. He met and married his wife, Lynn "Peggy" Rose.

With Peggy at his side, Beal took academic positions at various centers, the University of Southern California, and Colby, as well as working with his three children in Burlington in 1965. This teaching experience at UVM continues to benefit some his former students. He started the rock biology program. He served twice as president of the Faculty Senate and as faculty on his own but also took his role in student education seriously. He was Dean of Undergraduate Arts for a year in Denmark and later for a year in Cambridge, England. He remained at UVM until his retirement.

At his home in Burlington, Beal spent his precious hours reading and maintaining his personal flower garden. He was especially proud of his lilies. One of his grandest joys was his dancing with Peggy

and their very dear dancing companions.

Beal and Peggy traveled the world, visiting the Far East (China), the Middle East (Turkey and Egypt), the southern hemisphere (New Zealand and New), and other parts of the world (South America), as well as numerous destinations in Europe and the U.S.

Beal had an artistic side. At one time a member of the Vermont Players, he played a violin in some figure on many backdrops.

Sometimes in the 1950s, he sang about his love of very new song lyrics. With a beautiful eye and an artistic hand, Beal created pieces not only as naturally carved but using the character of the wood in sympathy with the design. His carving included his lilies, forest and sea sculptures, and panels for chairs.

Beal and Peggy were longtime members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society, where Beal lived his love for nature and the environment, and he served several years on the board of trustees and as chair of the Cemetery Commission.

His predeceasing, Peggy, his wife of 57 years and his brother, Allen, He is survived and will be missed by his three children, Lynn (Lager), David (David), and

Ron (NY). Thomas Hyde (Sullivan) and Alice (Sury) Levey (Peters) Grier Heights, Minn.; five grandchildren: Jeff (Katie) Polin of Huntington, Regal (Theresa) Polin of St. George, Va.; (Chris) Polin of St. Louis; Denise (Michael) Polin, Regal (Theresa) Polin of Huntington and Christine (Nancy) Polin of Everts; ten grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren and other great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for July 31 at the First Unitarian Universalist Meeting House in Burlington. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Civil Liberties Union or the charity of your choice.

Carol A. (Shappy) Palin

1934-2023 • 89th BIRTHDAY

Carol A. (Shappy) Palin, 89, passed away on March 20, 2023, at Home Care Services, 132 Main St., in Seattle. A member of the Christian Church, she was a member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church. She was a member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church. She was a member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church. She was a member of the Holy Cross Catholic Church.

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Ila Mae Barrows

MAR 21, 1941-APRIL 5, 2024

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When: Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Where: UVM Medical Center, Main Campus, Davis Auditorium

The Importance of Pollination: How You Can Help

Lisa Hixson, PhD, Graduate University of Vermont Medical Center

This discussion will address current issues facing one of the hardest working and most important groups in the natural world: our pollinators! We'll talk about how you can help conserve these insect species in various ways from choosing chemical-free lawn practices to creating a backyard pollinator garden.

When: Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Where: UVM Medical Center, Main Campus, Davis Auditorium

HealthSource extension programs and healthy lifestyle classes are offered by Community Health Improvement at The University of Vermont Medical Center. Many of these programs are **FREE**, unless otherwise noted. Please note that directions are provided upon registration. **FREE** parking is available onsite for all classes.

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Nate O'Connell (@NateOConnell), Burlington's 2014 King of Social Media and Kiri O'Connor (@mrswinowski), South End Burlington Residents

Vermont's Opera Fan Clubs Keep Area Arias Alive

BY AMY LILLY

Good news for those rare souls prying around the Green Mountains who like opera: You can now find one another. Vermont hosts two opera fan groups, and joining both is as easy as sending a card to their organizers. **CHITTENDEN COUNTY OPERA LOVERS** was founded last summer by **CHRISTINA PENAR** of the Burns and five other women from the area. **TOWN HALL, VERMONT HARBOR, LINCOLN TOWN, BETTY HERRER and LARA HUBBARD** Their operation was **STOWING AREA OPERA LOVERS**, founded in 2009 by the part-time Stowe couple **AUSTIN FENNELL** and **HANSEN AGARD**.

The groups host events ranging from live recitals by local singers to meet-ups at a local restaurant before Metropolitan Opera high-definition broadcasts of movie classics. The next event, a talk by H&L hosted by CCOLO, happens at Farnon Library in Shelburne next Wednesday, April 15. See it.



OPERA

speak about the two often paired one-act operas that make up the Met's final broadcast this season, *Giulietta* and *Phaedra*, by *Ruggiero Leoncavallo*.

CCOL and SAOL prove that Vermont opera lovers are not as rare as one might think. The older group started with about 35 members and has grown to 150, according to Fennell. CCOLO has about 50 so far, says Penar. H&L, who grew up in Hardsburg in the 1950s, says the growth of local interest in opera has been enormous, thanks in large part to the Met HD broadcasts.

"One reason to give up an opera now is that the technology delivers," declares H&L, who has been giving talks on opera at local libraries for the last six years. He grew up listening to the Met's made-for-television, where listeners had to rely on plot summaries when they didn't know the language in which an opera was composed. The HD broadcasts are subtitled and provide extras,

A Local Screening Explores Innovative Buildings in Coastal Newfoundland

BY AMY LILLY

A **NORSE CHALCUM** first saw Fogo Island, off the fringed coast of Newfoundland, as a motorcycle trip with friends in fall 2011. Traversing the island's long expanse of barren rock between small fishing villages, as rain poured down, the group came upon an isolated "little black cube" of a building that caught the architect-in-the-making's eye.

Chardain, who works as a designer at **INTERKOLLING** in Burlington, had read about Norway architect **Todd Saunders'** art studios, here was one of them, uncommon in the wild. Talking with locals, Chardain learned that Saunders, a Newfoundland native, had been commissioned to design four such studios around the island, as well as an art "The Building" museum purpose was to help preserve Fogo Island's economy and culture through tourism in the absence of the island's 400-year-old economic driver of fishing.

A documentary film about this transformation process, *Strange and Familiar: Architecture on Fogo Island*, directed by Katherine Knight and Maria Connolly,

will be screened at **BURLINGTON CITY ARTS** on Tuesday, April 16, as the last in this year's **Architecture + Design Film Series**. Chardain and fellow artist organizers **ARNA SWEENEY** and **KAREN REAY** have wanted a long time to show this one. It was originally scheduled to conclude last year's series but wasn't finished in time.

Saunders' work on one alone made the film worth the wait. Each studio is a boldly geometric creation in black or white, a rotating tower rising sharply from a jagged, wildly angular, trapezoidal structure perched on an Atlantic-battered outcropping. Their motherlode, the stunning 20-room Fogo Island Inn, consists of two crossed rectangular boxes, one portion of the X jutting toward the ocean and the other side.

Chardain's "completely random" encounter with the island gave him another reason for wanting to see the film. "We were witnessing heaven: knowing it this change that was coming to Fogo Island," he says of the trip. The motorcycle was taken in and led by residents such as Ray Dwyer, who appears in the film, and his 90-year-old former schoolteacher. The



Fogo Island Inn by Todd Saunders

ARCHITECTURE

eldest talked warmly about the creation of young people and the disappearing craft of making punts, Newfoundland's traditional wooden boats.

"When I finally saw [the film], I was blown away," says Chardain. "They did an amazing job of incorporating the community members, who talk about the root of why they're doing this — beyond 'We need jobs.'"

The story centers on an angel investor, filmmaker Zita Cobb. She made her millions abroad in internet film optics, ended in at age 42 and decided to give her fortune into reviving her rocky home, Cobb's father, a cod fisherman like much of the island's population (now numbering 2,000), lost his way of life when Canada banned Newfoundland's commercial cod fishery in 1992. Fishery trading had nearly

such as live interviews with the singers during live performances.

"The myth of opera inaccessibility is a thing of the past," Hill says.

As for Vermont-produced live opera, those knowledgeable fan-group founders admit to being deeply impressed. Dorell and Azzaro see regular Met goes and have seen 23 operas in Europe, they say, yet the 2009 **WINTER MOUNTAIN OPERA FESTIVAL's** *The Marriage of Figaro* "smacked us between the eyes," recalls Azzaro. "We thought, is this what opera can be?" GMOOF expressed significant support for the festival over its last five seasons. But GMOOF closed its doors last year, citing financial deficiencies.

Hill, meanwhile, admits to being an "opera snob," she lived for 30 years in New York City, where she had a subscription to the Met. But on a field trip with 25 COOL members to see the **OPERA COMPANY OF MASSACHUSETTS's** semi-staged *La Traviata* last fall, she recalls, "I had to pinch myself

at the level of excellence. It was one of the best *Traviatas* I've ever seen."

Then, who is the mother of up-and-coming opera singer **DAVIDYAN HARRIS**, says she started COOL mainly to support local efforts. "It's wonderful to have the simulcasts, but it's really something to hear people sing live," she says. Without such opportunities in the area, she adds, "it's tough to get your start [as a singer]. It's a tough business, it needs a lot of public support."

COOL has already lent support to one local project. At its recent group dinner at Zen Gardens before the Met's new broadcast of *The Merry Widow* at **PLACER & COMPANY**, Harris invited Brooklyn-based composer **JOHN HUGHES** to talk about the revival of his 2000 opera *A Floating Mirror*. The Vermont-set work, with libretto by Walcott poet and playwright **BARBARA FRANKLIN**, will be performed in September at six venues around the state.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE THE SIMULCASTS, BUT IT'S REALLY SOMETHING TO HEAR PEOPLE SING LIVE.

DOROTHEA PENAR

COVER FOR CLARE: M. POTT

decorated the agencies, and an entire local culture began to rapid-descent that year.

Determined to turn things around, Cobb founded the charity Shovelart Foundation in 2003 and engaged Saunders, from nearby Gonder, to create the visual arts for the already cultural renaissance. The foundation manages some residencies at the studio and hosts events such as an upcoming conference titled "Culture as Destination." Shovelart engaged local craftspeople to showcase the area's furnishings, and it facilitates cultural activities for the guests, such as pure-making demonstrations and visits to Vermont's national historic houses.

The sturdy angular forms of Saunders' architecture may seem reminiscent of such a setting, but they're in tune with the island's traditions, says Chardain. *Shovelart* was traditionally built without foundations but could be moved by boat or sled when sold. Saunders' use of other materials that arrangement, and his placement of windows and doors echoes the traditional structure's importance toward the sea.

"He wants [his buildings] to breathe

as much as of the landscape," Chardain says and thereby to preserve its wildness. One artist studio was built from materials found on site by wharfworkers along a narrow temporary boardwalk built

to protect the surrounding bog's delicate lichens and native cloudberry plants. All of the studios can be reached only on foot or by bicycle.

One aspect the film doesn't address is that rooms at the five-star *Shovelart* Inn start at \$675 per night and can exceed \$3,075 per night for rooms and board. Cobb must have brushed shoulders with enough 1 percenters in her international career to realize that admission fees with the high-enders. For the rest of us, there is the free visual pleasure of the film, which is free. **B**

Contact: amy@sevendaysvt.com

INFO

Shovelart and Gonder: Artchitects born on Fogo Island, sponsored by the Architecture + Design Film Series, Tuesday April 24, 8 p.m., at the RCA Center in Burlington. Free. burlingtoncityarts.org

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STATEofTHEarts

What's That Sound? A Sonic Mapping Workshop Explores Burlington

BY KIAN CHIANG MARRIN

Sound has always been Jena Karon's medium. The 45-year-old, long-haired, bearded soundscaper in her twenties is the lead singer of the all-female alternative pop band Zola Trane, one of the best-known acts to come out of the Queen City in the 1990s. Now she's a lecturer at the University of Vermont's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, a cofounder of Vermont Makers, and an installation artist. But Karon's current work goes back to her childhood: to the pop songs she composed and performed early in her career.

soundscapes workshop at the Fleming Museum titled *Mapping Found Sounds*. It's a one-part maker/tech course, one part songwriting lesson and all conceptual art. The workshop will take into a realm of sound art that Karon says takes its cue from avant-garde composers such as John Cage, who experimented with everyday ambient noises (One of Cage's best-known pieces is "4'33" — named for the four minutes and 33 seconds in which the musicians are instructed not to play their instruments; the piece is the sounds of the audience and the surrounding environment).



These days, she experiments with sound-capturing technologies to create ambient soundscapes that evoke specific places, such as Lake Champlain, the San Francisco Bay, a snow house in Idaho or the streets of New Orleans. Two of her recent creations are part of the current Fleming Museum exhibit "Searing Back: The Creation and Legacy of Picasso's Las Meninas diptych."

"I took music, and music in general, as so much about the physical person," Karon says. "I wanted to take my body out of my work because I felt like it was a distraction from what I was interested in — which was the background and the layering and the subtleties of it. I wanted to take the part of myself that wasn't part of the art out of it."

On Wednesday, April 15, and Saturday, April 18, Karon will teach others what she's learned in a unique, two-part

The result of "Mapping Found Sounds" will be a sonic map of the Burlington area. What will that sound like? Karon has no idea — she's leaving that part up to the students. Certainly, though, participants shouldn't expect to stand in street corners and record traffic noises.

Part 1 of Karon's workshop will teach students how to bypass the contact microphones in cellphones, computers, toys and other devices to make a simple listening instrument that can attach to headphones. The contact microphone changes the way a human ear hears a sound. The listener hears only the vibrational resonance of the sound waves, not the exact noise that might identify that resonance as, say, a door slamming or a car honking.

In Part 2, students will explore the Burlington area, placing their listening device on buildings, sidewalks, street

Opera Fan Clubs 4/17/15

—a significant effort that will rely heavily on funding from local donors.

Pearl will receive a block of seats for COOL members at the season's **MUSIC CENTER** performances of *Phrykas*. The group is also planning a trip to Middlebury to see COOL's fully staged *Turandot*, which begins its weeklong run on May 29.

With Green Mountain Opera Festival gone, ASOL plans to focus more on Middlebury productions, too, Prindle says. Meanwhile, the Stone group has hosted their concerts with local singers, including "Opera in the Stone" in January, featuring local vocalist **JOHN**.

Prindle and Aurora also host versions of adult operas in their home, where they subscribe to Met Opera on Demand. For a recent showing of *Travis*, the couple viewed five different versions before deciding on one to share.

"You really have to manage the experience [of opera]," Prindle says. "It's easy to have a bad one" — which could ruin the art form for potential fans, she suggests.

ASOL sends a newsletter to members (which Pearl forwards to COOL members) periodically listing events throughout the season, including ones at Opera Month in New Hampshire, Glenaugusta Festival in New York and the Opera de Montreal. The newsletter also includes links to recent news articles about national and global developments in the opera world, selected by the well-read Aurora. The latest included a link to last week's New Yorker investigation of controversial Met director Peter Gelb.

Both groups invite "the whole spectrum of opera lovers" to Pearl puts it. "We're like a family" — Pearl developed an interest in opera when her son said — "and people who live and breathe it."

Berlington resident Pearl, who helped draw up COOL's mission statement, trained as an opera singer and worked as a teaching artist at the Met, among other New York City jobs before moving to Vermont, where she now works as **SHELTERING CITY AREA**'s development director.

"What's great about COOL is the community it will build," Horner notes. "You can show up and meet others who care about opera and may know more about it. It's an opportunity to connect around what is sort of a complex art form." ☐

Contact: carly@sevendaysvt.com

INFO

"The Impact of Vermont" opens this by 10:45 Wednesday April 15 3 p.m. at Pier 500 Library in Shelburne. For more info or to go to the Shelburne County down to the event, email David@Pier500.org or pier500.com. To join Shelburne Area Opera Lovers, visit shelburneopera.com.

leaps and then back to "discover hidden sounds" in the area, as Karsen puts it.

"I want to have a reflection on Burlington that's really new," she says.

Missing Round Sounds is already sold out, but Karsen encourages anyone with an interest in this work to get on her growing waiting list. "We'll keep track of those names and be in touch if there are more workshops in the future," she says, noting that another one is in the works for later this year.

Meanwhile, those who find their curiosity piqued can sit — or rather, lie — Karsen's sound maps at the **WINTER** Museum. In the absence of the actual painting "Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. G.)" which has been loaned to New York's Museum of Modern Art since 1988, curator Jane Clute unveiled an unconventional array of multimedia tools. To give visitors a sense of the turn-of-the-century social climate and art-world response to the provocative painting, for example, Karsen recorded local non-actors reading excerpts and created quotations from the time in red, the audio plays on a loop near the entrance of the exhibit.

IT'S ONE PART MAKER CRASH COURSE, ONE PART SCAVENGER HUNT AND ALL CONCEPTUAL ART.

Then, to give visitors a sense of the "everyday" place and environment that fueled Picassot's creative process, Karsen created an audiovisual map that evokes the mundane sounds and views of the Maitreya neighborhood in Paris where the artist worked. One segment of the piece is an indoor setting; the second part is a streetscape. Karsen did extensive research for the project, reading accounts of the setting from the artist's letters and contemporaries.

She then captured the actual sound effects from white noise in her studio and other locations, from clips pulled from YouTube, and from some she made on her own. "I was working with something that was more representative than recording something that was happening in the moment," she notes, "while still making it as alive and new as possible." ☐

INFO

Blazing Rock: The Christian Legacy at the 10:45 Wednesday April 15 3 p.m. at Pier 500 Library in Shelburne. For more info or to go to the Shelburne County down to the event, email David@Pier500.org or pier500.com. To join Shelburne Area Opera Lovers, visit shelburneopera.com.

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Dear Cecil,

Can you do the teeming millions a favor? The Jenny McCarthy contingent is going on about the risks of vaccinations, but absent from this discussion is any consideration of the risk of the diseases.

Mark J. Costello

This recent measles outbreak got me wondering about the cost. I read an article saying the Centers for Disease Control report that "every dollar spent on the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine saves the U.S. \$23.30 in medical costs." It also said that Arizona spent \$800,000 to contain an outbreak. I understand the necessity for vaccinations, but what costs are they talking about?

Bob from Lansing

You're asking whether vaccination is worth it. There could be stupider questions — just wait 'til some G-grade celebrity leads the charge against indoor plumbing and electric lights. However, for now those questioning the value of vaccines pretty much have the market cornered on idiocy. By any measure, childhood immunization has been one of humanity's great achievements, substantially reducing diseases that in centuries past decimated continents and in the memory of persons still three killed or crippled thousands every year. But today few here any else, leading some to ask why we aren't in pole position with needles and all that jazz.

So fine. Let me explain why locking up mass murderers makes sense.

The argument has changed since we last talked vaccines in 2003. The second McCarthy era has seemingly come and gone, as Jenny has walked back many of her claims about the mercury-salt link, now thoroughly debunked. Likewise, Andrew Wakefield's findings tying the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine to autism and bowel disease have been judged bogus at best. However, newer and equally dark vaccine myths have taken their place.

It's not the mercury; it's the aluminum. Aluminum is added to some vaccines to boost their effectiveness. That aluminum is common in the



environment — many babies get a fair amount via the water infused into formula. After conducting a study in 2001, the FDA concluded, along with the rest of the scientific community, that the amount currently used in vaccines poses no significant risk.

Too many vaccines administered simultaneously or in close succession can overwhelm the immune system. This has become a popular "reasonable" position. We're not against vaccinations, we just want to space them out better. Problem: There's no evidence of any thing harmful about the current vaccination schedule, but good reason to think monkeying with it leads to lower immunization rates. A 1995 paper found an effort to administer MMR shots at the same time as other vaccinations would have spread a third of the unvaccinated preschoolers who got measles during an early-'80s US outbreak.

Vaccines haven't actually been that effective — death

rates were decreasing in the relevant diseases even before the vaccine were introduced. No shot death rates were going down — health care in general improved drastically as we got past the era of bloodletting, and mortality from all sorts of causes declined throughout the 20th century. None of that accounts for the massive drops in disease — period — immediately after the introduction of vaccines. Just before the measles vaccine was licensed in the U.S. in 1963, annual average incidence was around 500,000 cases (with probably several million more unsupported), by 1966 we were down to about 200,000 new cases, and by 2008 just 22,000. During its first 20 years the measles vaccine prevented an estimated 52 million cases, 12,000 instances of neural impairment and 5,000 deaths.

Then, there's scallieps, diphtheria and whooping cough. They killed thousands of Americans a year at their respective pre-vaccine peaks; by 2009 annual deaths had been reduced by more than 99 percent. Polio vaccination led to equally dramatic drops — the U.S. has been polio-free since 1975.

But you asked about MMR cost, possibly thinking measles is a mild disease. Not for everybody. A 2004 paper estimated the hypothetical cost of not giving the MMR vaccine to

any of the 34 million American babies born in 2003, factoring in medical treatment, long-term care of kids left disabled, lost wages for the dead, reduced savings for the hearteningly-patented, and so on. Grand total: \$19 billion for the first one batch of babies, against \$100 million in vaccine costs.

A study of polio vaccination found a net benefit of \$30 billion from 1955 to 2010. When the value of avoided suffering, paralysis and death was included, the benefit rose to \$800 billion.

Are vaccines risk-free? Nothing is risk-free. In 1955, when the polio vaccine was in development, the release of a defective specimen led to 200 cases of paralysis and 10 deaths. Tragically? Absolutely, but the program went on, no one doubted a successful vaccine would save far more lives.

The concept of herd immunity having now been explained almost enough that even state legislators understand it, since the beginning of this year lawmakers in a dozen states have introduced bills modifying vaccination policy — some eliminating the personal or philosophical exemption, others requiring school districts to make vaccination rate information publicly available. Medicines aren't home truth. So. But if ever there was justification for public intrusion into private decision-making, this is it.

INFO

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WTF? Why Don't All Vermont ATMs Offer a French Language Option?

Among the 14 language options on the ATM at TD Bank's downtown Burlington branch is one that few customers are likely to recognize: *Slopi*. That's the Albanian word for the national language, which is spoken by some seven million people, most of them in Albania.

Not all the eight banks and credit unions in the city's downtown, only two offer customers the option of reading ATM menus in French, a language that, according to U.S. Census data, is spoken by nearly 10,000 Vermonters. And, of course, by the many Québec natives who visit the state. Nothing about the good people of Albania, but WTF?

According to statistics provided by the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, about 680,000 Québécois spent at least one day in Vermont in 2011, the last year for which data are available. Each of those visitors spent on estimated \$219, thus helping contribute a total of more than \$945 million to Vermont's economy. To spend that money, some of them probably had to make cash withdrawals at local banks. While many Québécois also speak English, it would seem a fair bet that here local ATMs offer French as a language option.

Yet when Dave Davis surveyed the eight downtown ATMs, we found the word "Français" only twice, at TD and Key Bank. "Slopi" appeared more often—once on the eight machines—but likely to lose points. Though Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the U.S., it has a small hold in Vermont. In a report on emergency preparedness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found just 1,685 Chittenden County households in which Spanish is spoken. In more than twice that number of households, some or all of the residents were Francophone.

All Dudash is a spokesperson for NCR Corporation, the world's leading provider of ATMs and the software that runs them. Georgia-based NCR does business in 200 countries, Dudash said, so its ATMs are programmed with many different languages. "Ultimately, the bank will make the decision on how many languages it offers on its ATMs," he said in a phone conversation.



Evidence that ATMs can be programmed to "speak" just about anything. Dudash was one of three interviewees for this story who referred to a start pulled by British ATM company Bank Machine during the 2012 London Olympics. Cockney rhyming slang was added as a "language" to numerous ATMs around the city

When it comes to their options, national banks have an advantage. Eric Springer, a public relations manager with Toronto-based TD Bank, said that the company made a corporate-level decision to offer 14 languages on all its ATMs. "We'll add new languages if and when we enter a new geographic region where the primary language isn't one currently offered on our ATMs," he said.

The reason for such a policy is plain: It broadens the bank's customer base. Therese Myers, vice president of corporate communications for Key Bank, said so much, and noted that offering several language options reflects our increasingly multicultural culture. Key Bank decided to go global about seven years ago, when it replaced a large number of older machines.

Users of the ATMs in the downtown branches of Merchants Bank and New England Federal Credit Union, by contrast, cannot get past the initial menu

without being able to read at least a little English. Why don't other local banks offer more language options?

The problem is not a computational one, said Suzanne Glasbey, editor of the online trade journal ATM Marketplace. "[Adding more languages] is not a terribly difficult thing to program," Glasbey cited an example in her hometown of Minneapolis. As that city's Somali population has grown, local ATMs have been reprogrammed to include the Somali language. Adding languages also does not appear to be cost-prohibitive, some interviewees said. It was "not much," while others preferred to withhold that information as "proprietary."

Vermont Federal Credit Union has not added the French language to its ATMs for "no real scientific reason," Tim Crapo, senior vice president of operations. His facility's ATMs offer just English and Spanish, in large part because the machines came with only these two options preinstalled, and no one has tinkered with them, he said.

Crapo acknowledged that he occasionally hears from customers who'd like to see French (or other languages) added to VFCU's ATM readouts, and he expressed an interest in rectifying the situation. Though he had concerns about crowding ATM screens with too much information, Crapo said, "We can certainly add that, and certainly we should, being so close to the border."

A French option on Vermont's ATMs would seem to make sense — both for the bank's bottom line and for customer goodwill. Who knows, it could even open the multilingual floodgates. Someday soon, perhaps Vermonters will have the option to interface with ATMs in the languages of the state's increasingly diverse population. For future reference, *ou rétir la* is Vietnamese for "withdrawal." ☺

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Extra Credit

BY MARK DAVIS

Nick Darrow graduated from Middlebury Union High School and headed to an arts college in Colorado to pursue his dream becoming an animator. He finished his freshman year with a 4.0 grade point average, but financial problems forced him to drop out before his sophomore year, he says.

So Darrow found himself back home in Vermont, working seven days a week at the Dunkin' Donuts and Shew's supermarket in Middlebury and trying to figure out how to make his way in the world. One day, a regular Dunkin' Donuts customer mentioned that he worked at the Vermont Federal Credit Union and urged Darrow to apply for a job there.

That was three years ago. Today, at just 23, Darrow has worked his way up from a seasonal employee to head teller at the credit union's South Burlington branch. A chatty extrovert, Darrow says he still dreams of working for Disney and making a career as an animator. He spends his free time buried in his sketchbook and chronicling his meandering journey on his website.

But he's been surprised, Darrow says, at how much he enjoys working in the most visible position in the financial world.

"When life denied me an easier way to dream, I took the hard way head-on," he wrote recently on his blog "101 on figuring it out as I go."

Darrow took time out from lending money to tell Seven Days about his job.

SEVEN DAYS: Some people might think that working as a bank teller is a fairly boring job. Why are you so enthusiastic about your job?

NICK DARROW: I'm a people person. I really love interacting with all the Union members and everyone who comes through all day. I feel needed. I can help members with any issue that comes forward. I'm always trying to



remember members by name and face. Every time they come in, you haven't seen them in weeks. It's like seeing an old friend. The toughest thing about being on the teller line [is] the days it's really busy and you can't take the time to really talk to the members like you're an old friend, because that's what makes the job fun.

SD: What has the job taught you?

ND: I've learned how to be very, very patient with people inside and outside work. As you know, money can be

strenuous. Beyond checks — it happens to everybody. We have members who stress out, and I feel like it's our role as the first people who come into contact [with them] to say, "Everything will be OK, we will figure it out." We have to be the light in shining armor.

SD: I have to ask: do you have a favorite coin or currency?

ND: I would have to say I really like the new hundred-dollar bills. They are almost high tech. They are very colorful.

SD: Ever since I downloaded my bank's mobile-deposit app, I haven't yet felt in my local branch. Do you worry that this job that you love might one day disappear?

ND: We mention the app and mobile checking [to customers], how it can save time. But because we care about them and talk to them about their day, [plenty of people would] rather wait 45 minutes to sit us. We tell people we have busy days, and the lines are to the door, and we tell people in line about the app. But they stay. I do close to or over 100 transactions a day.

SD: Has working as a teller made you more financially savvy? Are you more inclined to save and be disciplined with your own money?

ND: I got very lucky. There was a course educating us on investing and saving. It was great. As you can imagine, working as the teller line, you become more disciplined, because you see how undercapitalized people can be. It's tough to get the numbers and tell [members] that they are in a bad situation. Everyone is eventually late on a payment or spending money that they don't have. Little things like that can spiral out of control. We help them look through their transactions and plan for beyond.

SD: Has meeting so many people every day helped you to develop your art career? Have you landed any clients?

ND: I'm always doodling. I can't stop. I always have a pad of paper and a pencil. Some will ask me what I'm doing, or what I am doing on the weekends, and I will mention artwork, and they get interested. I've had a couple ask me to do portrait work for them. That's really cool. It makes me feel like I'm really part of the community. My goal is to have art be my full-time career. But, right now, I have to pay the bills.

I haven't done anything involving my experience at the credit union, but I've got it. I would love to do consultants. ☺

Contact: mark@sevendaysvt.com, 865-6621, ext. 23, or @darrow70

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Jane's Addition

A powerful Vermont senator holds the purse strings — and the lunch bag

BY PAUL HEINTZ



Jane Kitchel, the 89-year-old senator from Caledonia County, seemed a little preoccupied last Thursday afternoon. As she took her seat in the Senate Appropriations Committee's Statehouse meeting room, she cautioned to her colleagues that she'd struggled to sleep the night before.

Who could blame her? In the next month, she estimates the state is expected to cut more than \$50 million from the state's \$1.65 billion general fund budget. With dozens of state programs and hundreds of jobs on the line, the pressure Kitchel faces is immense.

But that's not what's keeping her up at night.

"I've got to do Easter breakfast in the church for 100, and I've got company coming, and I've got to make a bunny cake, and I've got to make an Easter cream pie, and I've got to make homemade ice cream!" she exclaimed.

None of that is out of the ordinary for the silver-haired 89-year-old, whose sober bearing and austere clothing bring to mind a contraband in a 19th-century black-and-white photograph. She casually informed her colleagues that she'd been cooking for the Bennington Congregational Church for nearly half a century.

"I haven't been doing Easter breakfast for 45 years?" Sen. Dick Sears (D-Bennington) asked wistfully. "Do the same people come every year?"

"Well, a lot of them have died — including my help!" Kitchel said with a nervous laugh. "It's getting smaller and smaller."

For as long as she's been cooking Easter breakfast, Kitchel has also been pulling the levers of state government to help neighbors in need.

Fresh out of college in 1967, she took an entry-level job as a social worker in the St. Johnsbury district office of what was then known as the Department of Social Welfare. Over the course of 35 years, she worked her way from the bottom rung to the top, retiring in 2002 as secretary of the Agency of Human Services. Two years after that, the Democrat won her first term representing 33 Connecticut River towns in the Vermont Senate.

Through it all, Kitchel has remained deeply rooted in the Northeast Kingdom half town of Doreville, where her family has owned the McDonald Farm since 1839. While her colleagues cavort in Montpelier bars, she commutes home each night with her Springer spaniel, pup, Kitty Tidd (Doreville), and wakes up early to bake for her constituents and make lunch for fellow senators.

"She's the quintessential Vermont," says former governor Howard Dean, who appointed Kitchel AIDS secretary in 1999. "She's completely disinterested in her own promotion and one of the most capable people I've met — anywhere."

Arguably the most powerful member of the Senate, Kitchel remains little known outside the Statehouse and her own Senate

disturb. Unlike some senators who pause their work in front of the television camera, she shuns media attention, insisting to one reporter that she's "too boring" to be profiled.

An unusual presence in committee, where she demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of every line item in the budget, Kitchell keeps her head down at the Statehouse balls and avoids the gossipy circles of the cafeteria. She rarely speaks up on the Senate floor, but when she does, people listen.

"She's probably the most humble person you'll ever meet," says Sen. Dick Manna (D-Grand Isle), another quietly influential lawmaker who was beside her in the Senate chamber. "She has an tremendous amount of power as chair of Appropriations, but you'd never know it by talking to her."

What distinguishes her from others, says Sen. Richard Wootman (R-Lamoille), is the seriousness of purpose she brings to her job.

"This is not a game to her. This is about running the state well," she says. "The politicians are always second to her."

Out of the Barn

When Rob Alden's mother was looking for a job, neither more than half a century ago, he recalls, "She thought of the family that had the most help."

In Danville, that was always the Beatties.

Mother, Jane got the pig. She was the second of 10 children to Catherine Beattie, who ran the family's dairy farm and served a term on the legislature in the mid-1960s. Jane's father, Harold, had another four children by a previous marriage.

"Every town has a number of families that are hard workers and involved in everything," says Jane, who presided Kitchell at the Senate and now serves as co-manager of motor vehicles. "She could certainly say that about the Beattie family—very, very community-minded and engaged."

Kitchell and her siblings spent their early years in the barn and pasture, helping in the cows and cleaning milk pails.

"If you grew up on a farm and don't have work ethic, you missed the picture somewhere," says Tall, Kitchell's youngest sibling. "You don't waste things. My mother grew up during the Depression and she was one of us understand what hard means, sure."

Though the family prized literacy, it was known for and wide for its generosity. "If anyone in town needed a nail or somebody needed some help, Catherine was front row and center to help—somebody," says Roy Vesce, a lifelong Danville resident, former legislator and now an assistant judge in Vermont Superior Court.

Through her involvement in civic affairs — Kitchell's father served on



Jane Kitchell keeps her finger in the work.

NO MATTER HOW THE BUDGET IS BALANCED NEXT MONTH, ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN: IT WILL HAVE JANE KITCHELL'S FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT.

the ex-clubboard and her mother was a longtime member of the Vermont Farm Bureau — the Beatties benefited many a politician, including U.S. senator Ralph Flanders. Kitchell still recalls the day in 1954 when the Springfield Republican called for the names of fellow senator Joseph McCarthy.

"It was a brand and rich upbringing," she says. "Here we are going out to dinner with a U.S. senator and, on the other hand, my mom had guys from jail come up to work on the farm, and they sat down to eat with us. It didn't matter who you were. Come in and eat."

According to Tall, whose sister was almost old enough to be her mother,

Kitchell "was always kind of the mother" in the family.

"Jane always carried herself differently. She always seemed a little more sophisticated," Tall says. "Growing up in a small dairy farm in the Northern Kingdom of Vermont, Jane always had an air of grace and knowledge and had direction."

After graduating from White College, then a small women's school in Pennsylvania, Kitchell threw herself into her work at the Department of Social Welfare. Back then, she says, "Everything was done in people's homes." She notes with amusement how people in the profession seem to be rediscovering the value of working in the field.

Early in her career, Kitchell developed a friendship for a girl in her care named Janet Fraser. She started taking Fraser, who came from a troubled home, out to dinner and to her parents' farm — and eventually became a sort of foster mother to her.

"She changed my world," Fraser says. "If it hadn't been for Jane, my life would not have been turned around in the right direction."

More than 40 years later, Kitchell continues to keep an eye on Fraser, now a mother of five and heavy equipment operator in Newbury. When she couldn't get a son with learning disabilities into preschool, she called Kitchell, who made it happen within a week. She credits the senator with encouraging two of her daughters to go to college.

"She changed my daughters' lives, too, and let them know there's so much more out there," Fraser says.

These days, when Kitchell is up for reelection and busy marching in parades, Fraser and her children are often by the senator's side. But instead of throwing sweets to the crowd, Kitchell distributes pencils.

"She would want to pass out something meaningful to everybody," Fraser says. "She'd say, 'I know everybody wants candy, but I want to give them something they can learn with.'"

Right at the Beattie children still live in the area, one owns the Creamery Restaurant and another Mary's hot dog deli and convenience store. Every Sunday, Kitchell and her husband, Gus, join a communion of brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews at Tall's house for a family supper. The senator cooks the meal, which usually includes something she's put up from her half-acre garden.

The Kitchells have one son, Nathaniel who lives in Wyoming and is pursuing a doctorate in paleontology and geology.

Since their mother died last September, Kitchell and Tall have dedicated themselves to making sure the McDonald's farm stays in business — and in the family. The couple, James Beattie and Jacob Mills, are now the sixth generation to run it. The farm is a frequent topic of conversation during their daily 40-minute drive to the Statehouse and back.

"It's a good exchange," Tall says of the time in the car. "It's politics. It's planning each other's week doing what for Easter or Christmas or birthday."

And it's the state budget, over which the two sisters have inordinate amount of power. When Tall was first appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, she would write down any questions she had in a notebook, knowing she could ask the expert in the carpool later.

"For the first couple of years, I would just pepper her with questions on the ride home," Tall says.

The Mother of 2-1-1

Teaching before the Senate Appropriations Committee isn't easy. Meantime the program is question. It's likely the chair knows as much about it as the witness — and maybe had a hand in its creation.

"We understand more about the Agency of Human Services than anyone I've ever served with," says Seers, a long-time member of the committee.

When a newly installed bureaucrat mentioned the 2-1-1 Position Evaluation System in a meeting last week, Kitchel chimed right in. "That program has been around for 30 years, maybe?"

The chair, in a sweeter, tarted-out and smiling red and black sweater, perked over her glasses and acknowledged, "I'm doing myself."

"You were already dated," Sen. Brian Beebe (D-Chittenden) shot back.

"Didn't you invent the internet, too?" Seers inquired with a grin.

Maybe not, but Kitchel has had a hand in nearly every social service transformation there: governor Madeleine Kahn appointed her deputy commissioner of social welfare in 1995.

Dean's controversial witness referred "the really was the driving force," the former governor says.

Expanding Dr. Dymally to children whose families cover 300 percent of the federal poverty level? "That was something I proposed to the governor and he accepted it," Kitchel says. "It moved it to such an income level that virtually every child was covered."

The Reach Up case assistance program? "The way there when we named it," says Kathy Hoyt, who worked with Kitchel in AHS before becoming Director of child.

Vermont's 3-1-1 information and referral service? "I was the mother of 2-1-1," Kitchel says. "I was the mother."

Given that history, it would be reasonable to assume Kitchel might use her perch atop Senate Appropriations to stubbornly protect the programs she created. But her colleagues insist that from the time she

"She's a very big-picture thinker," says Rep. Mimi Johnson (D-Grand Isle), Kitchel's counterpart as chair of the House Appropriations Committee. "You know, she comes up with those sort of big, sweeping change ideas. Let's abolish this entire department or collapse this program?"

But Kitchel doesn't suffer fools, who propose change for the sake of change — or rate for the sake of rate.

"What I find sometimes a little frustrating is that a lot of the policy framework they don't understand," she says of bureaucrats with less experience than she. "When you've been around as long as I have, I carry some of that institutional

knowledge of why we did it the way we did."

When someone brings up an idea that's been beaten to death before, Westman says, Kitchel is quick to deploy one of her famous handyard aphorisms, such as, "Why would we look that one over next again?"

Some of her expressions aren't as loudly friendly.

"There's nothing about Jane that isn't dignified," Westman says. "But she's not afraid to call it the way she sees it."

Lunch Lady

Just before noon last Thursday, Tell walked into her sister's committee room and rummaged through a brown paper bag filled to the brim with food.

She was there to collect her lunch, which her sister sister cooks three days a week for her. Westman and Sen. Tom Ashe (D-Chittenden)

**KITCHEN'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
QUITE CLEARLY DERIVES FROM
THE ETHOS OF McDONALD'S, WHERE ONE DOES NOT WASTE
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM
FOR ANOTHER AT SUPPER.**

"It's kind of odd isn't it?" Tell said, as she pulled out a sandwich, a chocolate, homemade chocolate cookies and an intricately packed bag of potato chips. She added with a grin, "I'm sure they do this at the California Statehouse."

Westman entered the room in Tell's car, pulled her seat, but the Lemmon County Republican refused to take. He used the chair was present.

"I want to be given mine," he explained. A few minutes later, as he listened outside, Westman speeded Kitchel returning to her committee room and followed her through the door.

"Did Kitty—she took a—then a chicken salad, and the other one's roast beef," Kitchel said, examining the remaining contents of the paper bag.

"What do you want?" Westman asked politely.

"Oh, it doesn't matter," Kitchel said with a sigh.

"I want chicken salad if nobody else wants it," Westman offered.

"Chicken? You want chicken salad? Take the chicken salad. What about this?" Kitchel said, holding out a chocolate.

"Yeah, I'll take that, too," Westman said, turning to leave.



BY JANE ASKE

"You're not going to eat with us, huh?" Kitchel asked.

"No," Westman called back, halfway through the door.

"Did you get your cookies?" Kitchel called out after him.

Five minutes after Westman departed, Ashe crossed the hall from the Senate Finance Committee and joined Kitchel at her table. Ashe, the minister in charge of raising the money Kitchel is in charge of spending, has forged a close relationship with his colleague, despite their obvious differences. He is 21 years her junior, grew up in suburban Massachusetts and first ran for office as a Progressive.

"This is a stark contrast to her reputation as a really sharp person," Ashe said facetiously as Kitchel handed him a sandwich.

"I brought onions, if you want them," she said, ignoring the remark.

"I'd like you going to pass on the onions," Ashe said, "they're better pangs."

"They are very pungent," Kitchel agreed.

Dollars and Sense

Two weeks ago, the Vermont House passed a budget that relies on \$53 million in cuts, \$25 million in new revenue and \$25 million in one-time funds. The cuts — to state employees' payroll, home-care nursing assistance and countless other services programs — were deep.

It's now up to Kitchel and her committee to draw up their own budget, which must pass the Senate and be reconciled with the House's version before heading to the governor for his signature.

With the budget hot potato in her hands, Kitchel has been flooded with emails from those in fear of the budget's

"We're getting them from every corner that's impacted by the House budget, from the libraries to Vermont Public Television to the SPAAP," she says, referring to the Newport and Rutland public safety answering points which Gov. Peter Shumlin's administration has proposed consolidating. "You look at the list, and literally an impact on Vermonters in different ways."

State government has been spending more money on services than it brings in since Kitchel took over the appropriations committee in 2011. But she says this year is the toughest budget yet.

"Year after year after year, it becomes progressively more difficult, because you're gone into every body-hole you can think of," she says. "It really puts a high demand on your brain cells to tie it all together."

As Kitchel and her committee prepare to make the final choices that will result in layoffs and reduced services, her colleagues seem to trust her implicitly to make the right decisions. That's rare in a Senate that often finds itself divided between the conservatives of Rutland County and northern Vermont and the liberals of Chittenden County and southern Vermont.

"We always worked hard as the glue that holds everything together," Lt. Gov. Phil Scott, a Republican, says. "She's very strong but very fragile at the same time."

Kitchel's political philosophy quite clearly derives from the ethos of McDonald's, where one does not waste but there's always room for another it supper.

"I believe that government can and should play a constructive role in people's lives, but I think it comes with a high degree of accountability because you are often obligating public resources," she says. "I'm part of that bread middle. There's no question about it."

Kitchel's decisions are guided not by partisan politics, but by practical principles she's happy to list:

"Power is to be exercised with great caution," she says.

"Give credit where credit is due."

"It's better to make a decision based on the best information you have than to procrastinate and hold everything in limbo."

And, "Don't be threatened by smart, talented people."

No matter how the budget is balanced next month, one thing is for certain: It will have Kitchel's fingerprints all over it.

"It's a tough world being the least bit unpleasant," Dean says. "And she should always get her way." ☺

*Disclosure: Jim Ashe is the domestic partner of Steven Eby, publisher and coeditor of *Pinkie Pie*.*

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An Itch to Scratch

A habitual lottery player wants to get Vermont out of the "numbers racket" by KEN PICARD

Cole Word is one of the top-ranked master butchers in the United States. He's taught his trade to college students and farmers, been featured in culinary books and articles, and produced his own book, CD and instructional video on mixing, marinating and roasting government meats. In short, Word knows exactly how lambs are led to slaughter.

So, hence the anecdotal rule: Word often feels like a lamb himself—when he plays the lottery.

Over the years, the 64-year-old Fairfield resident has dropped a chunk of change on his personal vice: instant scratch-off tickets. Though Word insists he's not a gambling addict, nor does he attend Gamblers Anonymous meetings, he lately concocted a counselor to determine if he had a problem (he didn't say long). And, while Word has never lost his house as a result of his lottery habit, he admits it's occasionally "put a crimp" in his monthly finances.

Has he ever called up his losses? "I would be embarrassed to say, because it's a huge number," Word admits. "But I could probably relate at my age how on what I've spent on the lottery over the course of 20 years. And I have a relative who could probably double my retirement" from his own lottery losses, Word adds.

Word insists he's neither stupid nor bad at math, which he says is common assumption about those who play the lottery regularly. He asserts that the Vermont Lottery deliberately preys on the poor, the elderly, the uneducated and those like himself, who have trouble making up the gaps. Conceding that the lottery takes more from Vermonters—in terms of stress-related illnesses, depression, property crimes and financial strain—that it gives back, Word wants the state to get rid of it.

Though he generally avoids businesses that sell lottery tickets, Word recently met a reporter at the On the Run conference store in St. Albans. There he aired his grievances about the lottery, which he calls a "numbers racket." While we spoke, Word recognized several people at the register buying scratch tickets, including one who he knows has a serious gambling problem.



"The lottery has those [tickets] strategically placed so you have to see them every place you have to go, and they become a habit," he says. "You walk into a store to buy a coffee, and there they are. When I was a smoker, a pack of smokes would cost me 30 bucks. And it wasn't because of the [price of] cigarettes."

Word's lottery woes date to the 1990s, when he owned a grocery store in St. Albans. Back then, his publicists warred with buying lottery tickets but with selling them. The lottery commission automatically debited his store's checking account to recoup the proceeds from ticket sales. Though some retailers kept separate accounts for grocery and lottery sales, Word assumed his lottery sales weren't enough to justify two accounts.

One day he got a call from his bank informing him that the account was overdrawn by more than \$2,000 after doing some "internal research." Word discovered that some of his customers were playing the scratch tickets when he wasn't around.

Though he couldn't prove the thefts, he dumped the lottery menu daily.

Word started buying scratch tickets himself in the mid-1990s. For several years, he had a route selling nationwide instant supplies to stores in Vermont, New Hampshire and upstate New York. Typically, he'd stop at each store, buy coffee or a hot dog, then drop \$10 or \$15 on lottery games.

"Most thing you know, you get home and you've spent \$100 on scratch tickets," he recalls. "I don't think anything bothers me more than spending money and not getting anything for it."

Actually, Word has probably had better luck than most lottery regulars. In the 1990s, he bought a \$10,000 winning ticket at a store on Rockford, which netted him \$80,000 after taxes. Then, six years ago he hit a \$25,000 ticket at a St. Albans grocery from which he took home \$2,100.

Like many a gambler, Word can describe in detail how he hit the big jackpot. It began with a dream several nights earlier

about buying the winning ticket. Then came the ritual of playing the scratch game "in reverse"—from the bottom of the roll up—and the moment of scratching the first winning number while sitting down in his car.

"Buying scratch tickets isn't about greed. There's a certain sense of excitement to it," he explains. "But there's a certain amount of depression that comes with it, too. And that's there for everyone."

Indeed, his most lottery players, Word has lost far more than he's won—though not nearly as much as often he knows he says.

What bothers him most, he suggests, is that the games prey on the desperation of poor people who can't find afford to give away their money. He knows, and a woman who was recently forced to sell off farmland in northern Vermont because she'd spent too much on scratch tickets. Another just had her car impounded. Last year, a "very close relative" of Word's dropped \$10,000 on scratch tickets in one month and almost lost his business.

"How many Vermont kids go to bed hungry due to lottery losses? A lot of them," he suggests. In response, Word has called and sent letters to the governor, the attorney general, the speaker of the House and anyone else in a position of power, urging them to investigate the lottery as a "rip-off" and "a drain on our economy." Recently, his efforts found a sympathetic ear in the legislature.

Rather this session, Rep. Tom Stevens (D-Windbury) introduced H.265, a bill that would repeal the lottery entirely. A second bill introduced by Stevens, which also won chair of the Committee on Criminal, Juvenile and Military Affairs, which addresses the lottery, would consolidate the lottery, the Department of Liquor Control and the medical marijuana registry under a single "Agency of Controlled Substances." In effect, the lottery would be regulated with the same scrutiny as tobacco, booze, medical cannabis and recreational marijuana, Stevens adds, if the law is ever legislated.

For Word, it's fitting to compose the law into a controlled substance. As he puts it, "Being someone to play responsibly"—a message featured on all lottery tickets

and advertising material — "to blue selling someone to use cocaine responsibly."

But realistically, both Ward and Stevens acknowledge that the odds are against them. The Vermont Lottery is not likely to cash out and go away any time soon. Since its inception in 1978 — the result of an overwhelming statewide referendum calling for a state-run lottery — the number of games and ticket vendors (aka "agents") has only grown.

Three years ago, the Vermont Lottery installed 160 new vending machines in retail outlets statewide. Last year, the commission awarded its newest gaming device a pilot project of 25 "console" that each stand on its feet tall and sell nearly all Vermont Lottery products electronically. Executive director Gregory Smith reports that lottery revenues in the last three and a half years have jumped by more than 10 percent.

Today, the Vermont Lottery takes in between \$300 million and \$350 million annually, part of a \$70 billion statewide industry. As HIBO's John Oliver noted recently, that's more than Americans spent last year on movie tickets, music, paint, the National Football League, Major League Baseball and video games combined.

While Smith touts the lottery as a funding source for public education — in fiscal year 2004, lottery contributions to the Vermont Education Funding System totaled \$22.6 million — Ward

notes that figure is just 1.5 percent of the state's total education budget.

How are lottery sales so different from revenues from tobacco and alcohol, two potentially addictive products that are also state-sanctioned and taxed?

As Ward puts it, if he walks into a convenience store, buys a six-pack of beer, dunks it in 30 minutes and returns for more, the store should refuse the sale. No such restriction applies to the odds of lottery tickets to someone with a gambling problem. And, as Stevens points out, the lottery has begun putting gambling addiction in focus without studying the hundreds posed to people who are addicted to both activities.

The field of psychiatry now firmly recognizes gambling as an addiction. Prior Repenshade, president of the Vermont Association for Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, as well as the Vermont Council on Problem Gambling, says that one reason gambling addiction is so pernicious is that it's difficult to tell when someone is in its clutches.

"If you were a meth addict, I would be able to tell pretty quickly if I were a friend or family member," Repenshade explains. "Is gambling addict? No, because you wouldn't have the physical manifestations."

Repenshade agrees with Ward on one point: Gambling has taken a serious toll on Vermont taxpayers. Early findings of a study of problem gambling in Vermont, which is due out by the end of June, already indicate that many of Vermont's public infrastructure cases were a direct consequence of gambling addiction.

Nevertheless, Repenshade — whose organization is funded by the Vermont Lottery — admits he has by not calling for an end to the lottery itself.

"As addiction specialists, we're opposed to heroin," he says. "But we're not opposed to the lottery, because exposure does not necessarily lead to addiction."

Lottery director Smith points out that as market research, conducted every two years, studies the stratification of consumers' education, income levels, gender and age demographics. As he puts it, "We are very evenly distributed at all levels."

"Our play money is also evenly distributed for people making under \$35,000 a year to people making over \$100,000 a year," he adds. "What they're spending I can't tell you, but people with the deeper pockets obviously have the potential to spend more."

For his part, Ward doesn't take chances anymore. He's put safeguards in place for himself, including not keeping cash, debit or credit cards on hand. His paychecks are directly deposited into his savings account. When he needs gas money, he takes out exactly what he needs.

Finally, Ward tries not to patronize businesses that might feed his habit, and urges them to drop the games.

"Bartenders in Vermont owe their customers as much loyalty as they expect from their customers," he says. "In my day, we counted on these regular customers coming to your store every so often and supporting your business. Do I want to reward them by making them cheat? No." ☐

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INFO

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Maine Attractions
Theater review: *Almost, Maine*, Parish Players
BY NED BRADLEY

With winter barely in its waning hours, the Parish Players' production of *Almost, Maine* was knowing laughter is sadnesses all too familiar with winter's short days and cold nights. The small-town tales written by playwright John Cusack might feel familiar to many Vermonters, too.

Told in nine interlinked stories, at times over two acts, the play presents residents of a community near the Canadian border as they wrestle with relationships, nearly romantic. Teaching on *practical* moments in people's lives and love, the stories mix a little magic into the realism. Call it realism as far as the theater. But if *Almost, Maine* risks becoming theater life, Cusack keeps things surprising, and sometimes deeply moving, first pacing by director Samantha Dornisen Green and the Parish Players cast also helps avoid that pitfall.

For this production, Green cast three women and four men to play 19 roles. Allison Fay Brown, Michelle Carlson and Leah G. Bowman, and Near Talbot, Erik Gault, Rob O'Leary and Justin Pennerle.

There town is so small it doesn't have a name, just a number. Township Thirteen, Range Seven. In a scene titled "Her Heart," one local tells a visitor, "It's

not gonna be on your map, 'cause it's not an actual town, technically. See, to be a town, you gotta get organized. And we never got around to getting organized, so... we're just 'Almost'."

Of course, the fictional place — inspired by Cusack's hometown in Maine — is *almost* in Canada, too.

Perhaps because he's a native, the playwright reveals the stereotypes typically applied to rural New Englanders: *rednecks* quickly reemerge, sometimes. Instead, the characters speak simply and fluently, without self-consciousness, as they navigate the path of love. The actors portray honest, hardworking people who lack cynicism and irony.

The play takes place on a single Friday night in midwinter. The Parish Players' set is simplicity itself, consisting primarily of a rough-hewn wooden bench outdoors — indicated by frayed fallen snow — or, for interior scenes, a wooden bar or bench. Overhead in northern Maine's vast sky filled with stars and Northern Lights, the lighting effects projected against a black backdrop. Lighting designer and technical director Alex Christenson, who also produced the play, switches to a plain black backdrop for interior scenes.

It is here that human emotions erupt and sincerity is at play in characters

connect in unpredictable and myriad ways.

Cusack probably did not have Samuel Beckett in mind when he wrote this play. But, as in *Waiting for Godot*, his characters often seem to be waiting for someone who may or may not show up, and two characters often pass the time together while sitting on a bench. *Almost, Maine* does have a sense of the absurd, though it's rendered in more beautiful and lyrical ways than in *Godot*. Instead of talking about the nature of life, these characters embrace it. In "Her Heart," Gley (Carlson) carries her broken heart in a paper bag and Erik (Gault), who as a truck driver, wants to fix it. The first time she told it so he can mend it, then knows her it's always in repairing a broken heart.

In an interview, Green said *Almost, Maine* is about "when people's emotions are thrown into uncertainty. People in entangled relationships have reached the moment of truth, or caught between strangers [telling] the possibility of love and connection."

The play has a personal significance for her: A New England-born filmmaker who recently moved back after 20 years, Green had attended a production of *Almost, Maine* in New York City and liked what she saw. "The context of the cold winter night resonated with me," she said.

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Morrisville Momos

Seasoned Traveler: Nepali Cuisine

BY ALICE LEVITT



Raymond Dewar doesn't remember ever serving a fellow Nepali at his Morrisville take-out restaurant, Nepali Cuisine. "Our customers are all locals," he says.

What about the sizable enclave of his countrymen in Burlington? Dewar suspects they're happy to stay at home and cook — and, in any case, his cuisine wouldn't give them a taste of home. Most of those ethnic Nepalis are from Bhutan, Dewar points out, and grew up eating very different food than he did in. Growing up on the Nepal-India border, Dewar was distinct in the cuisine of his Nepalis wife, Laxmi, whose people are indigenous to Kathmandu but welcome for only 5 percent of the Nepali population.

More importantly, to the Morrisville community that flock to the Riverbend Market for lunch, the Dewars' robustly spiced curries have become something but foreign.

Since the couple opened their food counter in March 2014, John Goodhue of Vermont Green Printing and his colleagues have eaten Bhutanese food three or four times a week. "In our opinion, it's the best lunch in Morrisville," he said. "We always joke that we're going to have lunch at the gas station."

That's curious: a gas station. Tim Monaghan opened Riverbend Market in January 2015, but it had a long past as Route Food Mart, a more conventional gas-station grocery dating back to 1965. Monaghan came to Morrisville from his native Massachusetts, where he began working for the Route family in 1987. In 2006, he settled in Vermont, where he can both the market and the nearby Route's Service Center.

When he reopened the store as Riverbend, Monaghan aimed to slim down the stock of junk food in favor of healthier local and gluten-free products. RTS Nuts&Seeds, brewed sauer, shane cooler space with yogurt taste and apple



Tim Monaghan with Laxmi and Raymond Dewar

cider vinegar drinks. Stal's Old Fashioned Pickles, made in Eden, are shelved above the protein bars, just across the aisle from maple cotton candy and several flavors of Vermont Peanut Butter.

At the start of 2014, Monaghan had an empty vendor space at one end of his market, but he didn't want to fill it with a gas station deli that served pizza and granola. One friend mentioned a favorite farmers market vendor looking for a place to sell wares you're tired — the Dewars. Within a week, they had an agreement with Monaghan. After a brief kitchen renovation, the couple began serving their small menu at Riverbend Monday through Friday.

Nepali Cuisine still maintains that schedule, leaving room in the menu for the Dewars' farmers market commitments in Fairbuck, Guilford, Morrisville and Johnson. "If I don't do the farmers market, they'll kill me!" Raymond says of their steady customers. Those customers' support made the business a success.

Raymond first came to the United States in 1979 to study business administration, but he soon returned to Nepal, where he ran a small leather business until 2007. A Vermontian who rented one of Raymond's Kathmandu apartments introduced him to the Morrisville area.



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Homemade hot sauce

Morrisville Momos

When Raymond and Lancer decided to raise their children, now 12 and 6, in the U.S., the global momos seemed like the right setting.

"I love it. It's nice and quiet," Raymond says now. In comparison, he said, Kathmandu is noisy and full of pollution, with frequent water shortages.

He had no regrets about leaving his home for a maintenance job at Topsnotch Resort & Spa in Stowe. Sending the kids to Morrisville public schools helped the family forge connections to the community. But it was Raymond's outgoing personality that led to the unexpected creation of Nepali Cuisine.

While shopping at the Morrisville Farmers Artisan Market in 2009, Raymond noticed that more people were coming to eat than to bring home veggies. "You need more varieties of food," he remembers telling the

market's manager. "You need to spice it up." Soon after, he took matters into his own hands, bringing a small pot of curry to the market. The first week, he only made \$38.

After Raymond gave out freshies for a few weeks, business began to boom. "We went from just a small pot to big, big, big," Raymond recalls. Little by little, the business grew to provide nearly full time work for Raymond and Lancer. The only problem was that few farmers markets in the area operate year round. Bunting out the Riverbend space around a steady revenue stream that allowed Raymond to quit his maintenance job at Lanesville Union High School.

Now he spends his days making the chicken and vegetable curries that, he said, account for about 80 percent of the Delver's business. The stars are no more shy than their chef is. Using Nepali chicka powder trucked up from New York

Cry, Raymond creates a rich burn in the deep red-orange sauce.

Unlike Indian chefs who toast their curry spices initially to let them bloom, he waits to add aromatic blends such as garam masala and curry powder until the end of the cooking process. Thus, while the two types of curry share cast of their ingredients, the flavor profile of Raymond's fiery curry favors the Indians, bearing little resemblance to the latter being an upstart of heat.

The 37 curries, filled with small cubes of chicken or a mix of vegetables such as cauliflower and chickpeas, come with a side of rice or noodles made by Lotus. The slippery bi-mix style noodles, complete with sliver slices of carrot and cabbage, aren't so different from the Chinese dish. But the rice gets its vivid yellow from turmeric. Cardamom, butter and trip cubes of carrot make it a fragrant base for the curries.

Lotus also fries up Indian-style samosas. They're not part of her heritage, but customers request them, Raymond explains. Though Laxmi's English is clear and peppered with humor, she lets her more fluent husband do most of the talking. Perhaps it leaves her more time to make her exceptional meals.

The beef dumplings are something of a marital compromise. Laxmi's native recipes are round, as is common in Tibet and much of Nepal. But in Darjeeling, Raymond grew accustomed to the thick shape being folded in the more oblate skins of Chinese jiaozi. The puff dumplings that the couple's customers gobble up are the shape he grew up with, with her filling recipe.

Those dense beef balls are just slightly pink in the middle. Flavored with ginger and onion, they have plenty of personality on their own. But it would be a mistake not to dip them with gusto into the couple's hot sauce.

The fresh tomato-and-chile-based concoction has more in common with Mexican salsa fresca than with the spicy chutneys usually associated with the Deewani' part of the world. In winter, the sauce is bright with cilantro—but only because Raymond is disappointed with the retail available in Vermont at that season. "What is the best? It tastes much better," he says. As soon as harvest begins, harvesting the herb, it replaces cilantro for a more authentic eastern Nepali flavor.

The couple sells the sauce in 32-ounce jars, which they struggle to keep in stock. "Whenever he has extra, they sell [it]," Managham says. "There are some other businesspeople around who have said, 'Let's get together and distribute this.'"

But the Deewani don't have time to add packaging sales to their current duties. Their menu includes just five items—except on Fridays, when Laxmi prepares her Newari people's satwa barbecue, known as chacha. Her grilled chicken is covered in a pungent sauce of fennel, ginger, garlic and green chiles.

In a town where the only other ethnic cuisine is Anne Kennedy's Chinese, Laxmi's barbecue has earned a small sensation. Teachers at the middle school order plates every Friday. "It's just something that she does," says Goodhue, who also regularly orders the chacha.

Though Nepali Cuisine has a steady stream of customers from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the Deewani have no plans to expand beyond their tiny gastro-tion kitchen. "These people complain that it's on a gas station; they don't like cooking here. But we're looking at it cost-wise," Raymond says. "If you rent a separate place, the price of the food will go up. We want to keep it as low as possible while giving you a good amount of food."

Managham agrees that these low prices, topping out at \$3, are key to the Deewani's success. "We don't want to be too exclusive. We want to get the local folks to try it. A lot of us haven't had Nepali food before. I hadn't," he says.

Some customers have encouraged Raymond to leave Montpelier for a larger city, perhaps Montpelier. He acknowledges that he might make more money elsewhere. But for now, he and Laxmi are committed to staying put in the small-town gas station. "Montpelier has been incredibly friendly with us," Raymond says. "Everybody knows us." And they know where they can get a spicy weekday feast—prepared by their neighbors.

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|| SIDEdishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

both animals appear among the entries. So does a whole-fish soup, stuffed and braised eel, and roast chicken, and roast pork with yogurt, herbs and lemon zest.

Decades of downtown Burlington have another sandwich option. On Monday, April 8, seasons also opened in the space that most recently held Logan's of Vermont. The original Newlin's was established in Burlington in 1986, so the new location is a case of a return from a debut.

That means diners may already be familiar with classic sandwiches such as the smoked turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce-filled Gobbler. New owner Anna Sawada, of new town eatery, says she's particularly fond of People's Pleasure, a combination that melds turkey, bacon, avocado, jalapeños and cheddar with garlic-honey mayo. Customers can get one for themselves seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dumpling Destiny

PIEROGI, EAST ASIAN AS DUMPLING. In November 2003, native Polak owner Witekowski began selling homemade pierogi at the Woodstock Winter Farmers Market in Newmarket. Since then, the business has expanded to include vending at several other Vermont and New Hampshire markets and stores in far afield as Cambridge, Mass. The pierogi took it to a level that, last month, Witekowski



Pierogi, VT

moved operations from his home into a professional kitchen. With it, he opened a week-end-only pierogi café, also called Pierogi Me!

Witekowski operates the eatery-chef location at 1 Quaker Main Street in Quechee (also home to Fat Hat Clothing) as a commercial kitchen throughout the week.

On Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pierogi Me! serves a small menu in the mold of a pierogarnia in Poland.

Pierogi varieties always include his classic sauerkraut and-onion, potato and cheese and meat and beef flavors. Moving into a commercial kitchen has also allowed him to expand into meat pierogi, signaling the debut of a pork and sauerkraut dumpling. The rest of the menu changes weekly. "I always do a salad, and I make everything fresh based on what kind of ingredients I have," Witekowski says.

Pierogi are served topped a variety of ways, both with more traditional options such as fried onions and bacon or Polish American dill, garlic and cream. Each week, there are different toppings, along with salads and house-made soups.

The dumplings are also available frozen to take home, and Witekowski is working on reaching out to more stores and restaurants beyond the Upper Valley to carry his products. As the business expands, he plans to hire help for the first time. And as the brand grows, so will the restaurant's scope and hours of operation.

CONNECT

Follow us on Twitter for the latest food group: Anna Sawada @snxmusic and Hannah Palmer @snxmusic

More food after the class! Visit us on Facebook

Pitch Perfect

At a Healthy Living competition, emerging local food companies develop their wares

BY ETHAN DE SEIFE

The Vermont Tortilla Company is brand-new, but its products are made with a technique that's thousands of years old. Nixtamalization, explains co-founder April Moularnt, is the labor-intensive process in which corn kernels are dried, then cooked in an alkaline solution, hulled and ground into flour. What would otherwise be bland old cornmeal is given flavor and nutritional value. Moularnt believes that turning local, organic corn into nixtamol is what makes their tortillas so delicious.

Judges at last month's Local Food Business Pitch Competition agreed Vermont Tortilla Company placed second in the contest held at North Burlington's Healthy Living Market and Café. They won a small prize and a promise from the store to stock the tortillas when they're market-ready.

Store co-owner Ili Lesser-Goldsmith is bullish on the pitch competition, which debuted last year at Burlington's first bi-Northeast food festival. "The people who pitched were great and full of energy and full of life, and I thought, There's a good idea here," he said. "This year, Healthy Living used social media to call for participants, requesting that entrants submit a 10-minute pitch about why their food belongs on the store's shelves. Of the 26 entrants (up from four last year), seven were invited to compete."

"We turned a lot of people away, which in my opinion is good and bad, but it did raise the level of seriousness," Lesser-Goldsmith said.

Pure market research, particularly show and-tell food-and-wine got together; the March 29 competition challenged its contestants to focus on what makes their products unique. The judge, Lesser-Goldsmith, Colin Miller, Healthy Living's head chef and café manager, and Mindy Elmergreen, one of the store's "consultants" (Williston entrepreneur group StartupVT co-sponsored the event).

The first-place winner, Marshfield-based fermented food makers Sebazzano, took home a \$100 Healthy Living gift card, but the more valuable prize—wins like tangible. The company now provides consultation services with the store's apprentices and a three-month trial period when their product will appear on the store's shelves.

Speaking by phone with Seven Days just after their consultation, Sebazzano co-founders Caitlin and Jason Elberson chatted with enthusiasm about their win. "We



Elberson // Moularnt

**I LOVED TALKING TO OTHER
SMALL FOOD PRODUCERS.
I'M LEARNING SO MUCH
RIGHT NOW.**
APRIL MOULARNT

talked about packaging, strategy, flavors, cost," said Caitlin. "I'm really learning more about selling in this kind of environment." Sebazzano, named for the Spanish word for post-meal conversation, makes kimchi, sourkraut and other seasonal fermented foods, as well as salsas, pestos and herbal products like lip balms and soaps. The Elbersons grow most of their ingredients on their Marshfield farm and prepare food in their home kitchen. They exclusively use organic Vermont produce.

"We've always been really passionate about food preservation," said Caitlin. "Fermentation is low impact, doesn't require a lot of infrastructure and it honors all these ancient traditions."



The Elbersons make their pitch

The company's products are currently available only at farmers markets in Burlington and Wisconsin, so securing a spot on Healthy Living's shelves represents a significant step toward professionalization.

The Elbersons moved to their Marshfield home just last November, but they expect to have their products in the store by summer. The company's logo and

brand identity are already in place, and the creation and licensing of an on-site, state-certified kitchen is under way.

The Moularnts, who live in Burlington's New North End, are similarly excited to get the Vermont Tortilla product on store shelves. "We'd like to have it ready

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food+drink



Pitch Perfect

yesterday," said April Moullet. Though her company's second-place finish didn't come with a trial period, she said that Healthy Living is keen to make Vermont Tortilla available to its customers.

In order to compete on the state's market, Moullet said they are scrambling to find a space better than their current certified home kitchen. "There are a variety of requirements that make a challenging to find space," she said, noting that most locally available commercial spaces are far bigger than the 1,000 square feet they need, and few can supply the 750,000 BTU gas lines needed for reconstruction.

Still, Vermont Tortilla is energized by its second-place finish. "I loved talking to other small food producers," Moullet said. "I'm learning so much right now [in the competition] we discussed so many questions that are specific to small food production." Particularly valuable, she noted, was learning to think about her products from the grocery store standpoint. She mentioned another pitch competitor, a popovers company that hadn't yet developed product packaging. Unless the popovers travel in toasters, grocery stores won't stock them. "Those were things I'd never even thought about," said Moullet.

She and her husband have been approaching local grocery stores and strategizing ways to diversify their company's product offerings—including selling the masa flour from which the tortillas are made.

Another of this year's pitch competitors puts a different spin on corn. Laura Richards resides in Burlington and produces Borgevine's Bopans in kitchen space rented from Vermont Cider Lane in North Ferrisburgh. Her idea, "Vermont-inspired" flavored popcorn designed to pair with various craft beers. Though

Richards didn't place in the competition, Lesser-Goldsmith wrote in an email that Richards is "on the right path."

Named after her pet rabbit, Borgevine's Bopans comes in four flavors: Cheddar and Summer Sausage (no meat, just the spices), designed to go with steaks and pastas; Sage on Snow, which pairs with goat; Vermont Apple Pie, to accompany dark ales; and Cinnamon Smoke Dipper, which pairs with happy beers such as IPAs. At present, the snacks are available in two locations: Growler Garage in South Burlington and 14th Star Brewing Co. in St. Albans.

"The response has been really good," she said, "but it's so new that I don't have a whole lot of feedback to work with." That's why she's grateful for the chance to participate in the competition. "It was just a really great opportunity to have a real push. It's something I'd never done before."

Richards also learned that she should stick with a wholesale model for now, as she hasn't yet had time to develop packaging or marketing. And, though she already knew that "local" is a selling point for many Vermonters, the pitch competition drove that point home.

The competition seems to be a win-win for all involved. Healthy Living got the inside scoop on new products, and fledgling food companies got professional advice. Another win: Customers will soon have more Vermont-made foods to sample.

"It's part of [Healthy Living's] mission to help farmers and producers be better businesspeople and to grow and to be successful," Lesser-Goldsmith said. "We're trying to set people up for success." ☐

Contact: ethan@vermontnyd.com

INFO

vermontnyd.com, vermontrestaurantweek.com, burlingtonpost.com, healthylivingmarket.com

APRIL 15TH ~~TAX~~

FREE BAGEL & COFFEE DAY

Come celebrate Myer's Bagels anniversary with a Bagel & Schmear and a cup of Vermont Coffee Company coffee, courtesy of Harrington Brothers.

Wednesday, 4/15
6am to 2pm



377 PINE STREET, BURLINGTON 863-5013

Spring Gardening Seminars

Join us for Gardener's Supply in Burlington.

April 11 • 9:30-11:00am

Blended Gardens - Ellen Zachos

Did you know many ornamental plants are also edible? Maybe you've grown wild ginger for its beautiful leaves or June berry for its early spring flowers and didn't realize these plants could add your body as well as your soul! This lecture suggests ornamental garden plants that do double duty by being both beautiful AND delicious!

April 11 • 11:30-1:00pm

No Space, No Problem - Ellen Zachos

If you have a small back yard, terrace, patio, or deck, a few well-planned containers can deliver a lot of pleasure. Just to mention some large herbs and vegetables! This lecture offers unusual container set-ups, a container water garden, plastic grow bags, natural containers, flea market finds, and a containerized tree.

April 18 • 9:30-11:00am

Grapes & Other Small Fruits - Charlie Nordenskiöld

So many growing grapes, and why not? Not varieties make this a great garden crop, even in small spaces. Learn about varieties for flavorant, how to grow them, and also about growing other small fruits (gooseberries, honeyberries and more).

To register, go to www.GardenerSupply.com or call 800-332-1325. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Seating is 112.50 per person unless otherwise noted. See www.GardenerSupply.com for program details and for information on standard & bare roots.

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CELTIC THUNDER

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Theatres
Plymouth
(516) 340-9934
info: 775-0903
plymouththeatres.org



APR. 9 & 11 | 10:00 P.M. | THEATRE

Speaking Out

In 1994, Terry Galloway became deaf. The then 9-year-old's hearing loss was the result of a nervous system damaged in utero. Born deaf, Galloway later found her own way into music camp, an act of defiance that opened a window into performance in an emotional catharsis. Decades later, Galloway is an award-winning writer and celebrated theater artist. The versatile talent hit up Burlington with a reading of her memoir, *Mean Little deaf Queen*, on Thursday. Switching gears on Saturday, she presents the solo show *You Are My Sunshine*, an exploration of the world of sound following her cochlear implant.

TERRY GALLOWAY

Sunday April 9, 7 p.m., at Plymouth Theatres in Burlington (516) 340-9934
Saturday April 11, 8 p.m. at Plymouth Theatres in Burlington (516) 340-9934
PlymouthTheatres.org

APR. 12 | MUSIC



String's the Thing

Laura Cortese & the Dance Cards might take the stage with violins, cellos and upright bass in hand, but don't expect them to sound like a typical string quartet. Led by Cortese on the violin, the foursome's imaginative string arrangements and vocal harmonies sure hold music on its head. The result is a sound steeped in classical training

—Cortese is a *Billie Holiday* College of Music alum—that incorporates elements of rock and even a hint of Cajun Sweets.

City Newspaper calls the adventurous approach "string-centric, ambient-minded fiddle pop." Music lovers call it whatever they want.

LAURA CORTESE & THE DANCE CARDS

Sunday April 12, 8 p.m. at Bethlehem Congregational Church (513) 340-0020
info: 434-4563
volleyvillage.net

education

DISCOVER GOOD&BEAUT Corporate sustainability experts and environmental educators introduce a series of events to the school year involving energy, science, and sustainability. **Thursday, May 12, 4-6 p.m.** **Registration:** 950.505.5056.

environment

SOLAR COLLABORATION Help combat the heat. The long-term plan for the Sun has not been broadly publicized as it should be. Flynn will be introducing the Sun's power. **Thursday, May 12, 4-6 p.m.** **Registration:** 950.505.5056.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO From local food to renewable energy, dozens of exhibitors and workshops celebrate green living. See www.flynncenter.org for details. **Wednesday, June 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** **950.505.5056.**

etc.

A GREEN-HARTY SALE There's lots to see in the new exhibit at the Vermont State Museum. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.vermontstatemuseum.org.

SPIN-UP Would you like to spin? We'll show you how to spin. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.vermontstatemuseum.org.

SPINNING VEGGIES Spinning is a fun and healthy activity. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.vermontstatemuseum.org.

fines

BARBARIAN Barbarian is a new series of events. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.vermontstatemuseum.org.

THE LUNARCA The Lunarca is a new series of events. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.vermontstatemuseum.org.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN SUPPLY This company is a leader in the outdoor industry. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.rockymountain.com.

UTAHAN WINTER FARMERS MARKET This market is a leader in the outdoor industry. **Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** **See for kids 4 and under.** Info: www.utahfarmersmarket.com.

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Presented in new video in the Office of the Vice President for Research Services. www.flynncenter.org

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Learn what this group, which is comprised of local and
analogous, Williamson Place, Suite 100, is
about. Open to all. Free. Info: 433-1000.

NEW PLANNING/RENTAL SERIES
The Northeast Fidelity Association presents
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issues. The first seminar is on May 15, 2013, at
5:00 pm. Info: 433-1000.

SHIRAZI MEET
Challenging the "Shirazi" myth,
the Shirazi Meet is a series of four seminars on
planning and rental issues. The first seminar is
on May 15, 2013, at 5:00 pm. Info: 433-1000.

SOCIAL BANK
See May 15 at First United
Church, 1000 North Main Street, 1000
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Info: 433-1000.

SOLAR'S SOCIAL SERVICE
See May 15 at First United
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SUNSHINE BATH
Participants will learn the
importance of proper bathroom ventilation. Social
Hour: 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Info: 433-1000.

THINKING OUT LOUD
An outdoor
series of four seminars on planning and rental
issues. The first seminar is on May 15, 2013, at
5:00 pm. Info: 433-1000.

outdoors

OUTDOOR CLASS
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recreation

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community

COMMUNITY BALANCE MEET: Local share a meal and a time to create a safe and healthy. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WINTER GROUP: A supportive group of local business professionals who work together to build local business. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP: Sept. 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

conferences

WINTER FAMILY SYMPOSIUM ON FARMERS IN A LOCAL CONTEXT: Sept. 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

events

WINTER H. NEEDS/PROBLEMS: Sept. 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

dinner

WINTER DINNER: Sept. 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

etc.

WINTER NIGHT FARMERS PETER DAI: Local share a meal and a time to create a safe and healthy. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

films

WINTER WINTER FILM SERIES: WINTER NIGHTS: A series of films that explore the lives of local business professionals and the role of the B.V. movement. A discussion will follow at 10:00 a.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

food & drink

WINTER DINNER: Sept. 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

games

WINTER NIGHT GAME NIGHT: A series of games that explore the lives of local business professionals and the role of the B.V. movement. A discussion will follow at 10:00 a.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Sept. 27** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

health & fitness

WINTER NIGHT GAME NIGHT: Sept. 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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Great Expectations

Session Americana eye the next level

BY GARY LEE PHILLIP

If you've ever experienced *Session Americana* live, in a small club, you've likely been there: What do band bluffs through fan forums, "Jazz Town" is crossed from your to-do list, and you might find it hard to believe that the group has taken such a long time to move on to bigger venues. In 11 years, *Session Americana* have made seven albums, they've performed hundreds of shows and toured behind and the UK. But they have remained mostly a staple of the small club circuit.

However, after career-boosting appearances at February's Folk Alliance conference in Kansas City and the release of their latest record, *Rick Up the Creek*, *Session Americana* might finally be nearing escape velocity. They'll play *Artists at Work* in Burlington in support of that new record this Friday, April 30.

Session Americana got started in 2004 at Toad, a hip club in Cambridge, Mass. The model was the Irish session — musicians hanging at the pub to host a few pint and play some tunes. And the players included some of Boston's best performing and studio talent.

Drummer Billy Board, acoustic picker and vocalist Sean Staples (the banders) and singer-songwriter Ry Curnough played the first session. Later, vocalist and bassoonist player Jon Fitting (Great Her Right, the The), singer and multi-instrumentalist Dirty Child and bassist Kinsey Kirk joined. The weekly collective set list drew heavily on cover tunes, from Thomas Van Zandt and the 03ays to Prince, rendered on everything from guitar to pump organ and mandolin.

Curnough, Staples, Fitting, Curnough and Kirk clustered around a small table with a single mic at the center. Kirk and Board set up closely behind. For audiences, the arrangement created a sense of rare opportunity: the chance to be there in that hallowed hour when musicians kick back, bare their souls and play music just for themselves.

"It was never meant to be a band," says Child. "It just was. People couldn't seem to get enough."

After two years of weekly sessions, the band outgrew Toad's confines and moved to the more spacious Lizard Lounge, just down Mass Ave. Along

the way, the players added more original tunes and began to expand their geographic reach, including frequent trips to Vermont. At the behest of Josie Mitchell, the boys made their way to Langdon Street Cafe in Montpelier, where they played to sell-out houses — and, according to legend, engaged in at least one round of boogie-fied after-party dancing.

"The Vermont identity seems to jibe so well with what we do," Curnough says loudly. "They get it when it's fancy. They know when it's time to dance. They're not a TV-watching audience, and they're not passively viewing a show."

Still, despite fan enthusiasm, *Session Americana* still felt like a side project to its members. For one thing, most of the players were busy with more permanent bands. In addition, *Session Americana* was subject to change — most dramatically when Sean Staples suddenly lost his voice. Staples' reluctant departure left the band with what its members termed a "seat six" problem. They filled the vacant chair with a rotating collection

of talent, including guitar whiz Dick Levine, fiddle phenom Loren Cortez, and others.

There was other obstacle to growth: The one remaining quip, staple of musicians and a bar table into a van for long road trips was not an appealing idea. Child overcame the table issue by fashioning a foldable one, but a central question remained: Could the living-room intimacy of the bench club shows be recreated at larger concert halls and festival stages?

Last August, *Session Americana* put that question to rest in Sweden while performing before a crowd of more than 1,500 at the Stockholm Culture Festival. The fan response, says Child, was both surprising and heartening.

"When we got offstage, people were making the same kind of comments you get at club shows," Child recalls. "They were saying, 'You looked like you were having such a great time,' and, 'It was like sitting in a kitchen watching a great bunch of musicians play.' So we realized

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music

CLUB DATES



Great Expectations

this thing could work on a big stage, too."

After Stockholm, the band took an even riskier gamble: The second Felt Alliance convention held in Kansas City in February in the South by Southwest of folk music. They

year, hopeful musicians gather to share their stuff for booking agents, producers and other industry types. Session Americans posed up to meet a mass and put on two night shows. It wasn't cheap, but the results were nothing short of spectacular.

"I was getting accosted by drink agents in the hotel lobby at five in the morning who were telling me, 'You have to sign with us,'" Child says. And while the fallout from Felt Alliance hasn't yet settled, one result was a booking of this year's Sisters Felt Festival in Oregon — with surface provided.

Peek Up the Decade, released on April 3, completes the picture of a band on the way up. Working at Boston's Q Division studios and in Connecticut's home, the group took a flashback approach to production. They brought in the *Session Americans* Collective — folks who've contributed to the group's recordings and live shows over the years, including

Lucien, Cortez, Jefferson Hamer and Alexander Kincaid. Mitchell coproduced the record, selecting songs generated during those first sessions and helping the band shape their rare full-length CD.

Listen to the album and you'll hear a different side of Session, one that's a bit more restrained and polished than their live shows. Child views that as a good thing. And so might be expected, the playing is top-notch. An over-riding note of wistful longing is most evident on Child's "It's Not Texas." But the record displays the band's clear attractive sense of humor, too. In this regard, "Vitamin T," Pitting's jolly ode to all things togas, is a standout.

With the new record in hand, the Felt Alliance also drank behind them and a European tour booked for next summer. Session Americans are feeling optimistic, says Child.

"I don't think we would have had the confidence, even a year ago, to pull all this off," he admits. "It's a real progression. But it's not something I would have expected after 11 years." □

INFO

Session Americans Friday April 10 8 p.m.
at *AmFest* in Burlington. \$5/9
www.sessionamericans.com

soundbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65



music, who had owned the Longhorn Street shop since it opened in 1972. "It was the local music scene responded. When.

So what do Lander and Jensen have in their store?

For starters, the shop will now be known as Bush Spoke Records, which offers some indication as to the store's plans. Especially in recent years, and presumably in response to the decline of brick-and-mortar record stores in general, BS had begun diversifying its offerings to include brash-knacks such as concept greeting cards and the like. In a recent phone interview, Lander says he and Jensen will return the store's focus to music, at least partly.

"We want to get to match product to what can and share music with people," he says. "That's what we've always been about."

They've got a good head start. Last year, Jensen merged his Cherry Valley, N.Y., record store with BS, successfully doubling the store's inventory of vinyl.

BS has also become a hot spot for stereo gear.

"I can't keep stereo gear on the shelves," says Lander.

With the renewed focus on music, he says he expects some backlist finds from those who have come view the store as more than just a place to shop for records.

"Any time young people come in and take something over, there is going to be a group of people who don't like the change," he says. "But we're carrying on the tradition of Bush Spoke, going back to square one and asking it about the music."

Why Can't We Be Friends?

Last but not least, in other festival news, the folks at the Friendly Gathering — where, as always, "there's no 'I'm friends'" — recently announced the venue lineup for the fifth annual festival at Timber Ridge in Woodbury on June

26 and 27. And it's solid, featuring a diverse mix of notable locals and national acts.

On the national side, some highlights include headliners and world rockers **KINGS & MONSIEUR** (see our feature), soul songstress **VALERIE JOHNSON** — who was a hit at last year's NJPZ — indie rockers in cover bands **CRASH**, **THE NEW COMERS** (see our cover), prize fiddler **FORREST MCKENNA**, songwriter **CLAUDE PAGE** and up and coming soul outfit **SOVEREIGN & THE LAKERS**, among others.

The FG always does a nice job of exhibiting local talent, and this year is no exception. Local jam phenoms **TWOOLA** are headliners. But the undercard is impressive, too, featuring **WAX MONSTER** & **THE MOONSHINE SOUL BAND**, electro-indie upstarts **MAGALA**, whiskeygrass progenitors **GRASS BONES**, **GRASSHOP**, **GRASS** and **GRASS** and, because it ain't a party unless it's there, **GRASS PHANTOM**.

For more on the Friendly Gathering, including tickets and camping info, and to study up on the fest's "10 Anchors of Friendship," check out friendlygathering.com. **D**

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Listening In

A peek at what we're listening to this week.

THE BONES, *Indie*
GRASSHOP, *Country*
GRASSHOP, *Country*
GRASSHOP, *Country*
GRASSHOP, *Country*
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GRASSHOP, *Country*

REVIEW *this*

The Red Telephone, *Places You Return*

(SHIRAZI PAPER RECORDS TO DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)



Once upon a time in Burlington, there was a band called Emy. That was during the sh-t-tiest of the mid to late 1990s, a generation of local music wildly and unapologetically regarded as a high-water mark in local rock. Led by vocalist/guitarist Matt Hatten and guitarist Ben Tooley, Emy were Queen City rock royalty, ruling with ferocious guitars atop the Peets, Gigglyboy Club HQ, the Fugs and Wide World, among others.

Emy were also among the more ambitious local bands of that generation

Hatten and Tooley moved to Boston in late 1996 and reformatted/rebranded as the Red Telephone, shedding some of Emy's grit for a more polished and occasionally visible sound. They scored a deal with Warner Bros. and appeared to head toward stardom, only to get lost on the major-label crucible. AT parted ways with Warner following their 2004 self-titled debut. They released two more records, the last, *Color Songs*, coming in 2001. Though they never technically broke up, the Red Telephone have mostly been on hold. Until now.

On the recently released *Places You Return*, Hatten, Tooley (now based in Shelburne) and original RT members Pat McDonald and Mark Britton do indeed return to a place where buzzy power chords, overdriving guitar riffs and catchy earnestness are alive and well. The Red Telephone's self album in 14 years is an unashamed throwback to a bygone era. And it's delightful.

Hatten has always looked behind Hatten's sticky books, in part because of his vocal range. That's reflected more over the years. But it's apparent in another way, too. Following the sunny jangle of opener "Cane Canals" and the Cheap Trick-esque title track, we get a glimpse of Hatten's moodiness on "Under the Northern Sky" and "Peaches Spring," tracks that cut the shiny guitar band here

with earnest tension. Continuing the seasonal theme, "Break of Summer" is a meandering, melancholy ballad colored by rusty, chugging guitar.

The song "Gold in California" would seem to resonate on the band's brief major-label stint. (2003: "City of Angels," though it's far more apocalyptic. The album's last stand is highlighted by the R.E.M.-style, mid-tempo standard "Silverbeam" and the explosive "Dance," two cuts that make it rock convention just enough to be both accessible and provocative. That was and is one of the Red Telephone's great strengths.

In hindsight, the Red Telephone existed as a sort of sh-rock limbo in the heyday. They weren't quite as catchy as, say, the Goo-Goo Dolls—with whom they toured a bit—or as gloomy as the Afghan Whigs. They weren't quite as earnest as the Less-than-Perfect, and never had the arty cachet of Bands like Parliament. It's no wonder Hatten has, never really knew what to do with them. But the qualities that major labels found puzzling are what made the band great. And those qualities remain blessedly intact on *Places You Return*. Welcome back.

Places You Return by the Red Telephone is available at cdonly.com.

LEE CANTRELL

Dick Face Bat, *Space Hearse*

(SHIRAZI PAPER RECORDS TO DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)



Dick Face Bat is the alias of Burlington's Richard Wright—not to be confused with the famed Native Son author. The former Wright, however, does have his own claim to fame, particularly among plush-heads. A Vermont native since the 1980s, he once produced music in Newey Under that sobriquet. Wright wrote a song called "Haley's Comet" which was adopted by Emy in 1986, according to an archived e-mail in *pitch-out*. The song was something of a sh-tastic fan favorite from 1984 through 1989, before becoming a bona fide staple from 1995 through 2004. Despite that beloved place in *pitch-out*, Wright has only just released his first proper album, *Space Hearse*, in Dick Face Bat. But those looking for goofy puns will be in for a surprise.

Space Hearse, released on new local imprint Shitful Music Records CDs, consists of three 20-minute cassette and album composed and performed on an electronic keyboard and recorded on one-track. And it's more seriously challenging stuff

"Acid Rock n' R" opens with a run of distorted low tones set to electronic drums. These collide with a twisted cacophony of bent, choppy sax notes that distort the entire composition like a feedback mirror. It's disorienting and genuinely unpleasant. And that's just the first minute. Once the song settles into a groove—*if* it can even be called that—the composition at least begins to take some identifiable form. Over a schizophrenic swirl of distorted rock beats,

Face bat swirls an equally erratic array of keyboard notes, ph and between eye-rollers and played-in-it-is just how many notes he can squeeze into 25 minutes. (Answer: Holy shit.) It's like a John Cagey career on meth.

"Black Dross" follows in another template. It begins unobscurely with

spooky synth keyboard blooming and dissipating over steadily thudding beats. Here, however, the song does make sense around an actual groove, and its slinking pace is far less sh-t. There is tension and suspense. The r'n'r even is a climax, with stabbing high notes that seem to wink—*blink!*—at the listener closer to scene to Psycho. Later, the song enters more psychedelic terrain, becoming increasingly more frantic as it enters a harrowing, vertiginous conclusion.

"Circle of the Pallbearer" isn't another take on Dick Face Bat's previously established formula: moody intro builds to mounting anxiety transitions to frisk the fuck out. And, like the two previous compositions, it is a lot to chew down. More than anything, *Space Hearse* requires a prodigious degree of stamina to experience. It is a confession of something new that will likely leave most listeners exhausted and strung out. Proceed with caution.

Space Hearse by Dick Face Bat is available at beatsandbeats.com.

DAVE WALLIS

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CLUB DATES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015



THE WEEDS (L-R) WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015

In the Weeds Do you like weed? Of course you do! Do you also like whiskey, jokes and mid-black sludge metal splashed with heavy southern rock riffs? If so, you're gonna love North Carolina's **IN THE WEEDS**. The band's latest record, *Goldenrod*, is a haunting melange of stoner metal that's as fierce and fiery as it is sensually funny. Catch the band at a rare Tuesday edition of *Metal Monday* at Necca's in Burlington on April 14, with **WIND PUNY**, **SANABO HILL** and **ARABIAN**.

10:15-11:30 PM

WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

ARABIAN (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM
WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

middlebury area

CITY LIMITS (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM
WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

northeast kingdom

WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

THE WEEDS (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

outside vermont

WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM
WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

SAT. 11

burlington

WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM
WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

WIND PUNY (Vermont) (Whiskey Sludge) (rock/metal)
10:15-11:30 PM

chittenden county

BACKTOWN PUB Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
HIGHER GROUND BULLDOGN Burlington (bar) 10 p.m.-11 p.m.
WIGHT & THE SOUTHERN Burlington (bar) 10 p.m.-11 p.m.

THE HOBBSY HOUSE (Howard Park Lake) Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.

ON TAP (Bar) Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
THE HOBBSY HOUSE (Howard Park Lake) Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
THE HOBBSY HOUSE (Howard Park Lake) Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.

barre/montpelier

BARTON BAKES & BURGERS (Bar) Barre (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
THE HOBBSY HOUSE (Howard Park Lake) Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.

CHARLIE'S D'OR (Howard Park Lake) Burlington (pub) 9 p.m.-11 p.m.

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ART EVENTS & FINE

WELLSVILLE WINGS-2007 A fundraising dinner for the Cornwall-on-Hudson Temporary Studio featuring artistically Tasty Good and other local vendors, silent auction, and music by John Lurie. (Jesse Swadlow) 600 Gateway Center, Tasty Good Apr. 14, 7 p.m. \$20. Info: 953-8863.

ILLUMINATION TAKE! A public lecture by the contemporary design architect of Cooper, Hewitt and the American Design Museum in Union Park City, NYC. Also: Second Culture of Fine Arts, Manhattan. Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m. Info: 333-3807.

KATHARINA CHRISTOPHER'S GIBBERN Two city girls in residence plus full arts aspect of audio: Indecent, Nite Club, New York. Gallery of Fine Arts, Manhattan. Sunday, April 24, 6-7 p.m. Info: 333-3807.

USAIN AND SP An evening of comic and stand-up with comic and education Susan Denmark, 40 years experience. Free includes wine and all-natural, healthy food. 100 Canal Street, Wednesday, April 25, 8 p.m. \$42. 333-3807. Info: 333-3807.

THAUSANDS OF THINGS The documentary by Fatchi Givens is the first art film in Iraq. Authors: Givens and Mark. A thousand will follow with Mark Givens and Mark Givens. Premiere: 600 Gateway Center, Wednesday, April 25, 7 p.m. Info: 333-3807.

ONGOING SHOWS

New England

ARTIST ALL STARS A group exhibition of Israeli early and late art. By: Yoram Karmali. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

TRON: HOME Artists in the home using various mediums and materials to connect to the world. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

WILSON: THE NEW YORK YEARS A collection of art by Wilson. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

CARLA PETERSON A collection of art by Peterson. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

CHANDLER A collection of art by Chandler. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

CHRISTINE HENRY A collection of art by Henry. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

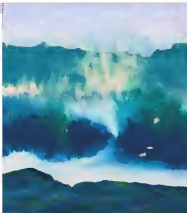
JOY: THE ARTIST'S FIRST LOVE COLLECTION A collection of art by Joy. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

WILSON: THE NEW YORK YEARS A collection of art by Wilson. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

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Lynda Reeves McIntyre Not satisfied with simply setting her imagination to canvas, Lynda Reeves McIntyre takes in all weather in locations that inspire her, to "transform her work a natural personal experience," according to her artist statement. In her exhibit at All South Interfaith Gathering in Shafter, the University of Vermont studio art professor shows work on a variety of media. These include watercolors from her "Sun and Sea" series, ink drawings made in the mountains of the Big Bend National Park, and a domestic installation of paper-shoed paper towels and disconcerting photographs. McIntyre writes, "This may sound very diverse, yet the show holds together well and has a natural flow." That makes sense, given that her theme explores the textures and joys of being alive. On view until April 29. Pictured: "Power of Wave IV"

EXHIBIT BY LEANNE SPRING-ART SHOW Leanne Spring will be exhibiting a series of art works in a spring theme. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

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RATE CARL WILSON The first solo show of Wilson's art in the city since 1990. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

CRISTEN TORRELLA WILLIAMS First solo show of Williams' art in the city since 1990. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

LEAH GRAYSON First solo show of Grayson's art in the city since 1990. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

LYNN CLARK First solo show of Clark's art in the city since 1990. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

WALTER GROUP SHOW Art by Walter Group. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

MARK GIVENS First solo show of Givens' art in the city since 1990. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

NEW YORK CITY PHOTOGRAPHY A collection of art by New York City photographers. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

A PLACE CALLED HOME A collection of art by A Place Called Home. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

RENEE LACROIX A collection of art by Renee Lacroix. Through April 20. Info: 333-3807. 100 Canal Street, New York City. Info: 333-3807.

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ART SHOWS

LINDA REEDER HENNING Natural Elements and Elements of Childhood by Linda Reeder Henning explores the division of nature and childhood into parents' forms of nature, nature's temperate and forms of nature's temperate. The Division of Nature and Childhood is a collection of her work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

MIRIAM ADAMS "Drawn to Plastic" explores the use of plastic materials and objects in her work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

WILLIAM WOOD "DAMES SCENES AND TOWN BY THE WATER" An exhibition of large scale photographs and watercolor paintings by William Wood. The exhibition is a collection of his work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

YOUNG VERNON "The Art of the Book" is a collection of his work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

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barre/montage

THE ART OF THE ADAMS ADAMSON "The Art of the Adams Adamson" is a collection of his work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

BARRE & WOOD "The Art of the Book" is a collection of his work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

THE FLYNN "The Art of the Book" is a collection of his work. Through April 29, 1000-1000 Artwork Interiors Gallery in Shelburne.

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Pathos are deeper than ever this year

I just saw an update on road repair

Check out FrontPorchForum.com

front porch forum.com
HELPING NEIGHBORS CONNECT



TRANSFER FASTER

Instant Decision Days at Champlain make the transfer process easier and faster. Students will have the opportunity to meet privately with an admissions counselor, immediately transfer to a decision regarding admission, have a preliminary transfer credit evaluation and learn about what financial aid is available.

Just and Decision Days are held on Monday- Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Sign up for your appointment today!

102-461-1111 or 102-461-1111

FOR DETAILS VISIT: Champlain.edu/transfer-days

AT THE FLYNN

Broadway Pop Pioneer
Gilberto Gil

Mon., April 20 at 7:30 pm, MainStage

Popular in concert with the Office of the Vice President for Student Activities, Gilberto will perform at Flynn throughout 2008. Presented in partnership with the Flynn Center.

Some groovy tunes...

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

Tues., April 21 at 7:30 pm, MainStage

Some danform...

flynncenter.com



Seeking Male and Female Smokers Ages 18-70 (who are not currently interested in quitting smoking)

We are conducting a UWM research study to learn about the effects of different levels of nicotine in cigarettes.

This 15-vist study involves:

- A screening visit and training visit (2-3 hours each)
- Three visits per week for 5-7 Weeks (2-4 hours each)
- Compensation of up to \$900



For more information, call 656-0392

Better Benefits

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We even made fun videos to prove it...

Seriously... fun dental benefits videos!

To watch our award-winning Better Benefits video series and learn how we can keep you smiling, visit nedelta.com.

art

Gallery SIX

The collectors of Montpelier's gallery SIX, Abigail Feldman and Sherron Langhans, have announced they're restructuring their energies to personal projects, and that their 2 year old Bitter Street venue will close at the end of April. "Thank you all for the support and goodwill you've offered us," reads their statement. "Although the gallery SIX project is ending, we remain committed to the idea of a Montpelier venue dedicated to visual art. There are too many artists and art lovers here to have so few galleries and art studios." A closing reception for the current members' show is Saturday, April 11, 6-8:30 pm. Montpelier gallery hours are irregular; check the website, galleriesix.net, or call 852-6620 for info. Personal "SIXteen Five" by Feldman.



MODERN/ART GALLERY #100

PAUL LAVIN Mixed media and a small assemblage series by the Vermont artist. Through April 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

PETER REED The visual artist's series includes his photography and watercolor studies of his projects in various media. Models are available for purchase. Through December 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

STEVEN ADRIAN "Weathered Color" is a series of color prints of 24 x 36 inch photographs of a Vermont waterway. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

outdoor art

CASTLETON CLIPPING ART EXHIBITION Artists by 18 producers from 1987 through 2014. Through August 31, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

GARY CHANDLER Oil and Pencil. Abstracts and watercolor paintings. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

HARRY RACHON-GRIFFITH (Yellow Pine Farm and Leland) Mixed media and with wood. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

KATHA CHANDLER Abstracts and watercolor paintings. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

WILLIAM LEE The gallery artist will show his mixed media and watercolor paintings. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

upper valley

ART EXHIBITION Lower valley and upper valley artists will show their work. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

LARSEN, VIL, THOMAS & PETER HENRIKSEN Landscapes and portraits. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

THE LIGHT HOUSE The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

SHARON KIMBLE The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

WILLIAM RACHON-GRIFFITH & PETER HENRIKSEN Landscapes and portraits. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

brattleboro area

CHANDLER BY THE GALLERY The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

ADRIAN & LUCAS The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

THEODORE CONTEMPORARY ART The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

CONTEMPORARY ART The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

northwest kingdom

ART EXHIBITION The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

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outside vermont

WILLIAM RACHON-GRIFFITH & PETER HENRIKSEN Landscapes and portraits. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

THEODORE CONTEMPORARY ART The artist will exhibit the physical light and color. Through May 15, 100 Arts Center, 100 North Main St., Burlington.

fun stuff

DAVE LAPP



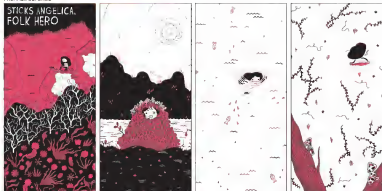
EDIE EVERETTE



LULU EIGHTBALL



MICHAEL DEFOURCE



MORE FUN!
STRAIGHT DOPE (#29)
CALCULU & SUDOKU (PC-4)
CROSSWORD (PC-5)

JEN SORESEN



HARRY BLISS



"What are you looking at?"

Curses, Follies Again

Joey Peterson, 22, shaded Idaho mathematics for several months, but then he posted his whereabouts on Facebook. He invited friends to play softball at Arroyo Softball Field in Golden. That's where police found him. Monitoring social media has led officers to suspects before, Sgt. Joey Handley noted, explaining, "Surprisingly, even laptops can't keep from updating their Facebook status" (Associated Press).

Police arrested three suspects in a talisman-crating spree in Volusia County, Fla., after one of them tried to claim one of the rare stolen talismans to claim a reward. The victim paid the reward but called cops, who located the trio (Orlando's WFTS-TV).

Sarah Palin Toll Bridge

Russian unveiled plans to build a high-speed railway and ferry link between London and the United States—via Siberia. State railway firm RailRus believes, who he paid developing the plan, dubbed Trans-Siberian Jet Development (TSJR), promised that the proposed 12,400-mile route would "supercharge" global economic growth by connecting Russia's oil and gas pipelines to the rest of the world (Bloomberg Independent).

Missing the Point

A speaker at Australia's annual National Disability Summit had to be lifted onto the stage because there was no ramp for wheelchairs or mobility scooters. In addition, disabled participants, who each paid \$2,000 to attend the privately organized event, were all seated at one table in the back of the room. A blog post by participant Tim Jacko wrote that the "accessible" table was \$200 with chairs and used as a storage space, and "the floor provided was up on really tall tables" so wheelchair users couldn't reach it (Australia's ABC News).

Slightest Provocation

Police and Phyllis D. Jefferson, 50, stabbed her 41-year-old boyfriend while the two were eating chips and salsa at home in Akron, Ohio, after they got into an argument over who was eating all the salsa (Cleveland's WCYC-TV).

Jessica Clements, 44, set fire to his house in Boynton Beach, Fla., authorities there said, after he once refused to give him a ride to a liquor store (South Florida Sun Sentinel).

When Guns Are Outlawed

Australian and actress charged Kiera Lecker, 36, with possessing a police officer with lethal rifle. While he searched after her arrest on an unspecified warrant, Lecker was made from the worst ap-

LUXURY TOILET SEATS TOPPED THE LIST OF SOUVENIRS.

when she grabbed her own hair and squeezed milk onto the forehead, ones and clothes of a female officer conducting the search. The Western Australian Police Union said the sexual charge was partially due to the possibility of the breast milk's spreading disease (United Press International).

When Patricia Leves, 61, answered a knock at her door in Lexington, Ky., a woman called her. At, pushed her way in and began choking Leves with a belt. After a 20-minute struggle, Leves said she managed to knock the woman unconscious by hitting her on the head with a ceramic chicken (Lexington's WKYT-TV).

Bottoms Are Tops

Luxury toilet seats topped the list of souvenirs brought home by the second number of Chinese tourists who returned on their first year in Japan. Costing around \$50, the toilet seats feature polishing water jets, aromatherapy and even music to cover up the sound of nature's call. Many other hands-free bid sprayers, some as portable and battery-operated. Chinese state-run media reported that many of the toilet seats sold in Japan were made in China (Bloomberg).

Border Dispute

Roseanne Di Garbo, who has lived in a house that straddles the New York-Connecticut line since 1997, was surprised to learn that she no longer owns the half of her house on the New York side because her mortgage servicer failed to pay property taxes. Di Garbo said she was never notified, nor did she know that Putnam County foreclosed on the property. Her neighbor, Albee Jacobs bought the 0.2-acre lot in county auction in 2000 for \$175 and now owns Di Garbo's living room, kitchen and sun porch and part of her bathroom. Jacobs also told Di Garbo, who continued paying utility and insurance until she found out the truth. Jacobs then offered to sell her back the property for \$100,000. She lowered her asking price to \$35,000, but Di Garbo sought to have the New York Supreme Court overturn the foreclosure. The outcome is uncertain because she didn't bring the action within the two-year statute of limitations (Westchester County's Journal News).

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE

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Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Oh, Aries is a Dutch word that means to go out for a stroll in a windy weather simply because it's exhilarating. I don't know any language that has parallel terms for running in the wind like this dizzy joy of it, or dancing through a meadow in the dark because it's such a mesmerized fun, or singing at full volume while riding alone on an elevator in the most happy quest to please your tension. And in the coming weeks, you don't need to describe or explain experiences like that; you just need to do them. Experiment with giving your instinctive need for a subconscious lot of freedom to shine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your really napping little dream last night or maybe just its not doing what you desire is supposed to do is its confused, hesitant and ineffective. I almost feel sorry for the thing. It is simply even keeping you awake at night, and it's already so mediocre you thought it was as well as time to let it go. I suggest, for as when the dream shows a warning and its that you aren't work, you should look up with it for good. Perform an ultimate reminder: the mountain. Buy it a one way bus ticket to the windward and say goodbye forever.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) When he was in his fifth French painter Claude Monet finally achieved financial success. He used his new riches to buy a house and land that had gardens. Finally his prime a paid lot of money. For the rest of his life he was to

begin to paint water lilies. During the next 30 years they were his obsession and his specialty. He made them a central feature of 250 canvases, which now come in one of his signature contributions to art history. I painted my water lilies for pleasure. I never I collected them without thinking of painting them. And then suddenly I had the revelation of the image of my pond. I suggest the lavender lilies in a glass lake for you to do something similar. Create or find a source of beauty that will stimulate your sense of wonder and fill your vision to express yourself for a long time.

CANCER (June 21-July 20) Everything we do life is based on fear especially love. said Canadian comedian Mel Brooks. Although he was joking, he was also quite right. More often than not the fear, especially in the form of our quest to be loved for our dreams about love may be motivated by a dread of loneliness. We worry about whether we are worthy of getting the help and support we need. It's a fundamental human problem, so there's no reason to be ashamed if you have this tendency yourself. Finding out that I'm happy to report that you're not the only person who is anxious like this tendency. You will be able to discover the relationship sought in your career and refine your relationship with love. It's time to disappear the fear.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 22) Do you ever feel nervous and sad? Look! Are there times when you spontaneously yearn to engage in acts of worship? Is there anyone or anything that excites your admiration, humility and gratitude? The starting point will be a good time to look out experiences like that. According to my readings of the astrological system, you will get better jobs of transformation in devotion if you blend yourself with a sublime love that you trust and respect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A lot has happened since you were... Uh... indicated have moved out on several pit tents. The little has been revised, ignored, broken-up and possibly repaired. Humans have been flying objects have been offered and collected have been disappearing. So stay you really

yet to return to the head of the pack? Have you turned in much in you can from the compass that provided your compass? Don't try to return to reality. Make sure you're at least 73 percent headed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Well, but don't you say. That's my \$500 per hour advice keep renewing, but don't start performing the actual show. Oh! But, but don't let it go. Can you handle that much impulse control? Are you strong enough to explore the chosen impulses of pleasure? I suggest to you that your burning questions will ultimately be answered if you don't try to force the answers to arrive according to a set timetable. I guarantee that you will make the necessary connections as long as you don't start that they already exist in one of your dreams.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The Gemini darts are a group of prankster artists who use humor to expose secrets and expose in the art world. Every so often they take a "serious" turn at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. During their last survey in 1944 they found that five percent of the artists who had work hanging in the galleries were women while 85 percent of the nudes depicted in the paintings were women. More money in 1944, their women count revealed that five percent of the artists were female. But to percent of the nudes shown in the paintings were female. The coming week would be a good time for you to take a serious course in your own spirit. Scorpio Dreams are more favorable than usual to let others take to your dreamers and to believe in their advice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The English have spent more time, primarily because their traditional energy has been a cold power. But its roots are in the Old French word *engin*, which meant *art* or *art*, and in the Latin word *ingenium*, defined as "inborn talent." I like to borrow the original sense and to design your horoscope this week. According to my readings of the astrological system, your "engine" is actually strong right now, with which means that your old beliefs and views. Consider the functioning at

peak levels. I suggest, you make intensive use of them to produce maximum amounts of energy and greater mass of the cloud you'd like to visit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) What I'm about to say is not a hard scientific fact, but it is a rigorous poetic truth. You don't need to go to the mountain because the mountain is willing and able to come to you. But will it actually come to you? It's not only if you need two conditions. The mountain will pick itself up and move all the way to where you are. You have a lot of reason for it, and if you are prepared to work with the changes in or around being.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Every term a 7-year-old student might be a valuable time to you. Given a choice between a bowl of starfish, apricot, strawberries and a plate full of chocolate-coconut macaroons, you probably choose the macaroons. For that matter if you were 4 years old and were asked to decide between getting a pile of macaroons and a mischievous cat or an engaging painting by Velasco or perhaps a horse painting from the world's greatest astrologer, you'd opt for the cookies. But since you're grown up, your list of priorities is somewhat different, right? You would never get distracted by a sugary temptation like that. But would you give a more meaningful and fully satisfying pleasure? Right?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) On June 23, 1917, Babe Ruth was the starting pitcher for the Boston Red Sox in a Major League Baseball game against the Washington Senators. After the first batter drew a walk, Ruth got upset with the home plate umpire and punched him in the head. Babe! Babe! Babe! The Babe had to be stopped at the Red Sox by the cops. The new pitcher was Ernie Shore. He proceeded to pitch a perfect game, allowing no further Washington player to reach base in all nine innings. In the coming weeks, I hope to see you having the potential to duplicate Ernie Shore's performance in your own game. Coming in as a replacement, you succeed. Ernie is a satisfaction you will outdo the original.

CHECK OUT ROB BREZNY'S EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES & DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES REALASTROLOGY.COM OR 1-877-873-4888

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SEVEN DAYS

FEELS LIKE A DATE

For relationships, dates and flirts: dating.sevendaysvt.com

WOMEN looking for MEN

LOOKING TO MEET SOME

My date and I are looking to add a twist to the world it's a adventure and make something new. We like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

FUNNY LOVELY ADVENTUROUS AND FUNNY

The short and sweet piece I like to have someone who can do the simple things in life. I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

NORTHERN GIRL LIVING ON MOUNTAINS

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

JUST THE...

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

FUNNY DISCREETLY DISGUISED

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

FUN FUN FUN

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

MEET YOUR MATCHES

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

MEET YOUR MATCHES

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

WOMEN looking for MEN

ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE, ATTENTIVE

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

WORTHY OF THE YEARS

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

FUNNY DISCREETLY DISGUISED

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

CONSTANT HARD-HEADED LAUGH

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

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Introducing: Vermonters

CAREFREE OPTIMISTIC

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

PRIVACY, FUNNY, GRACIOUS, HONEST, FUN

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

GIVING THIS A TRY

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

OBJECTIVE HEALTHY & INDEPENDENT

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

FLAKING FUNNY AND BLAZE

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

OUTGOING ADVENTURE, THUNDER LAUGH FUN

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

BURLY AND DIRECT

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

CURIOUS, UNCOMMON, CREATIVE, SENSUAL, ATTENTIVE

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

MYSTIC LOVE, RAZON AND ROCK

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

WHO'S YOUR DREAM

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

MEN looking for WOMEN

LASTING, CONFIDENTIAL, IT'S AVAILABLE

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

AMOROUS CAP OF JOE

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

COUNTRY RECOVERY BOY

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

CARING, EMPATHETIC, GIVING

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

1960 OLDER THING

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

PERSONAL PRIDE WITH PULLS

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

ADVENTUROUS, MISADVENTURE, PLEASE APPLY!

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

LAST BACK: PLEASANT FRIENDS

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

MY FIRST LADIES...

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

THE CLOCK IS RUNNING

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

AMBITIOUS, BEHOLDING, LEADING

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

WARMING A FRESH START

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

SINGLE AND READY FOR MY FIRST

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

OUTGROWING

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

OPEN, CARING

I'm a person who like to be making my goals and something but we do have time to relax and enough. I'm a person who like to have some playing to avoid of my business. drop in for a Call 323 3

MEN looking for WOMEN

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See photos of this person online.

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NEW THIS WEEK!



April 4, 2015
Eva Sollberger, host, and Julia Dufort have been creating unique handmade treats for the past 12 years. Eva Sollberger visits from Madbury to see the Dufort family's business in action.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:



MARCH 5, 2015
How much does it cost to manufacture? Don't forget to include the cost of transportation in the health of your **Spectrum Sleep Out** business. Eva Sollberger, host, and students visit outside and inside **SPECTRUM SLEEP OUT** for materials and at-risk loans.



MARCH 23, 2015
Photographer, Jesse Chouhrouh and his family live on a farm in a field where they're raising sheep. For an incredible 1 year, Jesse Chouhrouh's efforts create a following on Facebook.



MARCH 26, 2015
How thousands of students from across Vermont memorized poems for the annual **Peeling Gals** event competition. Eva Sollberger, host, and students visit the Gals' Open House.

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